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THE
PORTLEDGE PAPERS
1687–1697

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The value of private letters in helping us to form a just historical estimate of an age which would without them be grown indistinct and remote is now generally admitted. Perhaps we may add that the less such letters were intended by their writers for publication, the more useful they are, because so straightforward and unaffected. Persons of cultivation and consequence, living in the country in the seventeenth century, were largely dependent for news on their London friends and agents. How much information of this kind, on all manner of themes, could be distributed in this way at the close of the Stuart reigns has been exemplified quite lately in Lady Newton's remarkable collection of 'Lyme Letters.' The Portledge Papers, which are here introduced, do not cover so wide an expanse, but illustrate a central portion of the same period with varied and intimate detail. When they open, James II had been on the throne for two years, and had succeeded in deeply alarming the majority of his subjects. The letters see him in flight, and William and Mary installed in his place. They close when the Peace of Rijswick is about to give a new character to the general condition of Europe. During this time, Mr. Lapthorne was acting as book-buyer and general purveyor of gossip to a wealthy and highly cultivated Devonshire squire, of whom an account is given in the Introduction.

Mr. Coffin was doubtless well advised to employ Richard Lapthorne as his agent, for this gentleman reveals himself as an unrivalled purveyor of news. How he obtained it all is a puzzle to me, since it is plain that his office involved his sending exactly the information which was *not* to be found in the public newspapers. He forwards the Gazette with regularity to Mr. Coffin, and it is therefore obvious that his personal reports were something additional. I cannot believe

that Lapthorne had any other business than this collecting of trifling anecdote, when he was not attending book-auctions. We see him running out in the early morning, and interviewing his neighbours, like a modern reporter; and hurrying home to jot down what he has been told, and then sallying forth to make fresh collections. No doubt, in those days, when London was small and journalism in its infancy, people depended very much on verbal communication. Lapthorne must have frequented the best-informed coffee-houses, and must also have scoured the busiest parts of the town in gossipy peregrinations. Even so, it is astonishing that he heard so much, and so early, and that he was not more often misinformed. He is premature sometimes when he announces the approaching demise of prominent persons who got perfectly well, but even here they were no doubt very ill when he sent their lugubrious bulletin down into Devon.

We begin to realize his character, a very typical one of those troubled times. Religion, more in a political than in a personal sense, is prominent in his mind. He shares the popular dread of Popery, but he is very cautious not to be led away into denunciation of Papists. Who knows? King James II may come back. He is suspicious of 'a great many topping ones' of the Church of England, and is marvellously discreet in his comments on the trial of the Seven Bishops. But he goes steadily to church, and is delighted when a minister pulls a rival preacher out of his pulpit in the presence of a mildly scandalized congregation. He is at Windsor listening to the celebrated Dr. Gilbert Burnet, when a gallery of the church sinks amid 'grievous shriekings and cryings.' His own conscience vaguely smites him in the midst of 'various and stupendious providences,' and he pins his faith, as crowds of sinners then did, on the stirring ministrations of the all-popular Doctor Sherlock. He fears that

'God is providing greater scourges for the Nation, which God grant our humiliation and sincere repentance may divert.' But he has not time for much humiliation; he has to write his report, and hasten out to collect more news, and hurry in to write again. A rather feverish life, one fancies, but one which Mr. Lapthorne enjoyed.

What he enjoyed most, however, even more perhaps than the gossip about books and their prices, was dilating upon the social horrors of the town. 'The world with us,' he moans, 'is very unruly, debauched and profane,' but he would have little to write about if he omitted to chronicle these dreadful events. He shudders at the enormities, but undeniably dwells upon them very voluptuously, and it is to be hoped that his account of them was equally appreciated at Portledge. He is like Mr. Toobad, in *Nightmare Abbey*, he feels that the Devil has come amongst us, having great wrath. There are occasional tremors and panics about a possible French invasion, but these do not trouble Mr. Lapthorne much. His nerves are nearer home, dwelling on the social terrors of a 'wicked age.' If we may take his word for it, the state of London in 1690 was bad, but not worse perhaps than it may seem to a sequestered reader to-day who knows nothing but what the evening newspapers tell him. Lapthorne expatiates on the frequency of duels, and has a theory that they are brought about by continuously stormy weather. If so, the season of 1927 ought to have been particularly fertile in this species of forbidden sport.

There were murders almost every day, and Lapthorne, in 1692, becomes quite breathless in recording them. There is the unfortunate Beadle of St. Clement's, who was slain in the middle of the afternoon, by an officer of the army (or the navy, Lapthorne is not sure which). There is the case of the woman who is burned for killing her husband; Lapthorne is shocked, but, after all, she was a French woman, so it does

not matter so much. But most of all he is interested in the murder of Dr. Clench, which was the great *cause célèbre* of 1692. One Harrison has been executed because he 'assarscinated' the beloved physician by strangling him with the kerchief of a sempstress, and now it appears that the doctor was poisoned, and not by Harrison at all. (Lapthorne's spelling becomes something extraordinary when he is excited.) After this, the affair of Sir John Fenwick is mild in comparison, but also is very affecting to Lapthorne. Fenwick insulted Queen Mary, and the military were sent to arrest him, but he slipped out of their clutches and escaped leaving his breeches behind him, which his pursuers seized, as the nearest thing to their prey which they could capture.

The character of Lapthorne is illustrated almost more clearly by what he omits than by what he expresses. He was evidently not a man of wide intellectual cultivation. He has not a word to say about the poetry or the drama, the science or the philosophy, of the times in which he lived. As he went in and out of the coffee-houses, he must have seen Dryden in his chair at Will's, but he says nothing about it. He never goes to the playhouse, and is silent about the great controversy raging between the puritans and the playwrights. Locke and Newton, Boyle and Wren are nothing to him. He has, however, two fields of intellectual entertainment; he is fond of antiquities and he has a passion for scholastic literature. In both of these, no doubt, he reflects the taste of Mr. Coffin, but there is evidence that it was his own taste also. When he is lucky enough to pick up a copy of Ranulf Higden's *Polychronicon*, perhaps the Caxton edition, he sends it loyally to his employer, but adds 'I wish I could meet with another such [copy] for myself,' so that Lapthorne also was a bibliophile, but in love with quite other books than most of us value to-day.

The Portledge Library, in the completion of which Lap-

thorne so actively assisted, was as interesting a collection as any English country house contained at the close of the seventeenth century. It appears to have been essentially a creation of that age, for after the death of Richard Coffin, though it was carefully kept intact for another hundred years, few and unimportant additions were made to it. When, in 1801, it was sold at Exeter, and dispersed by a local bookseller, the catalogue ran to 4,515 items. Of this catalogue a single copy, believed to be unique, survives in the keeping of the family, and this I have been allowed to examine. It throws a very interesting light on the Portledge Letters, and I may therefore be permitted to give some account of it. As Lapthorne's reports prepare us to expect, Mr. Coffin's tastes were of the severe order fashionable among the more sedate all through the seventeenth century. We are reminded that when Sir Thomas Bodley instituted his famous library at Oxford, he expressly prohibited the addition of any books of a frivolous or lively description, and concentrated his efforts on the classics, on divinity and on the controversial works, mainly in Latin, which were so universally admired in the seventeenth century, and yet cannot be read by any human being to-day.

In Mr. Coffin's library, Latin vastly predominated. He spent his evenings, we may be sure, in communion with *Wieri de Praestigiis Daemonum*, published at Basil in 1568, and was as much afraid to go to bed as any child to-day is after a ghost story. He possessed, and doubtless enjoyed, the *Epistolae* of Busbeqius, a folio of 1660. Modern impatience shudders to think of his copy of Kircher's Works, in seventeen volumes, 1650–1680. Was this Konrad or Athanasius Kircher? Who can tell, and who can care? The library contained, as we should expect, a vast amount of divinity, English and continental. Sibbes and Stillingfleet were there, but already in 1801 their value had sunken to

one shilling a volume, and this department of Mr. Coffin's library proved to be anything rather than remunerative. As to the controversial and scholastic folios, we may be sure that they had fallen immediately into neglect much earlier than a hundred years ago.

Of Mr. Coffin's interest in the county histories which were a remarkable feature of seventeenth-century antiquarianism, the catalogue of his library gives ample evidence. He had Plon's *Oxfordshire* of 1677, and his *Staffordshire* of 1686, works still to be valued by the curious, and regarded with great respect at the time of their publication. He had Speed's antiquarian collections, and Wright's *Rutland* of 1684. These and a great variety of similar publications were no doubt procured for him by Lapthorne, who mentions certain of them. That Coffin was himself a collector of local information is proved by a letter which has recently been discovered from John Prince (1643–1723), the distinguished author of *Worthies of Devon*. It now appears that Prince was anxious, or was willing to seem anxious, to withdraw from the task of compiling that important work, if Richard Coffin would undertake it in his place. Prince doubtless knew that Coffin had amassed a great quantity of genealogical data regarding the Devon families. This letter runs as follows :

JOHN PRINCE TO RICHARD COFFIN

Hond. Sir,—According to my promise, and your manyfold obligations on me, I have sent you Mr. Hooker's Chorography and History of the Province of Devon (as he calls it). I should desire it may be carefully preserved, and, as soon as conveniently you may, return'd. There are many things of good note in it which with other collections I have made, and farther intended to have procured, I had sometymes the vanity to have thoughts of printing for the good of

our country. But I am glad Sir that that undertakeing is like to be the province of one soe excellently qualefyed, both with learning judgment manuscripts, leisure and estate, as yourselfe which I hope you fully purpose and intend. . . . It is all att present from him who is, kind Sir, your most obliged and affectionate friend and servant,

JOHN PRINCE
Berry Pomray.

Mar. 20, 1686

This was the civility of a young parson to an old squire: the publication of the *Worthies of Devon* was delayed until 1701, three years after the death of Richard Coffin, to whom no portion of it was attributed.

Although no reader of the ensuing 'Papers' would suspect it, the brighter side of literature was not entirely neglected at Portledge. The library possessed two examples of the Second Folio of Shakespeare, 1632, one of which was a 'sound and perfect copy, handsomely bound in Russia'; it fetched five guineas at Exeter in 1801! There were also in the library several black letter Chaucers; a Gower's *Confessio Amantis* (the 1554 edition); a Spenser of 1611; and several issues of Donne's prose and verse. A great deal of Sir Thomas Browne, Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, Drayton's *Polyolbion*, a folio Ben Jonson, the *Six Comedies* of Lyly, displayed an interest in solid English *belles-lettres* of the middle of the seventeenth century. Some one had felt a peculiar curiosity about Sir Walter Ralegh, and there was what professed to be an original MS. from his pen, a *Life of Mahomet*. A very few plays, Haywood's *Rape of Lucrece* (1608) and Ruggle's *Ignoramus* (1658), had found their way to Portledge, but these stray swallows made no dramatic or poetical summer. There was a *Paradise Lost*, but no Dryden later than the *Annus Mirabilus* of 1667.

All this evidence from the catalogue tends, in my judgment, to show that some earlier influence had been exercised upon the library, and had ceased about 1670. It is possible that Richard Coffin indulged a certain taste for poetry in his youth, and later on abandoned it; more probably the works I have mentioned were introduced by some member of the family who preceded him in the conduct of the estate. At all events, at the time when letters were written, Coffin's tastes had become rigorously austere. He added nothing of an artistic or imaginative character to what already existed in the library. He concentrated his attention on heraldry and topography, on divinity and the classics. In all this, he was evidently supported by Lapthorne, whose inclinations were identical with his own. It is significant to note how much they both were interested in the collections of Isaac Vossius, who was the latest representative of the old school of learning in this country. Vossius was made a canon of Windsor, and when he died there in 1689 we find Lapthorne hurrying down to examine his books, and, no doubt, to see whether he could pick up anything, as Vossius had specialized in exactly the sort of literature attractive both to Coffin and Lapthorne. But the great Leyden scholar had bequeathed his manuscripts and folios with great prescience, so that they should go either back to Leydon or be preserved in Oxford; it is evident that none could be secured for Portledge.

We may note with interest the frequency of book-auctions, which Lapthorne made a point of attending. The prices of such volumes as he desired to secure seem to me relatively high. A reprint of Camden's *Britannia* was certainly not cheap at £4 7*s*. 6*d*. On the other hand, the much-desired *Polychronicon* fetched no more than eight shillings. It is interesting to find Lapthorne in close relation with the famous (or infamous) John Bagford, shoemaker

and bookseller, against whom at the Last Day crowds of mutilated volumes will give damning evidence. There is nothing to show that Lapthorne connived at Bagford's dreadful practices, indeed he shows a praiseworthy solicitude about the perfect condition of the books he buys for Portledge. His boxes, sent down into Devonshire by the carrier, contained, we may be sure, no folios with the engraved titles torn out. We may like to leave him crossing St. Paul's Churchyard with the booksellers alert upon their doorsteps and shouting to him that they have something in the shop which would exactly suit Mr. Coffin of Portledge, a copy of *Mr. Doctour O'Gabelhover's Book of Physicke* of 1599, it may be, or three volumes of Sirmondus, 'very cheap.'

EDMUND GOSSE

INTRODUCTION

This collection of the Portledge Papers comprises the letters which Richard Lapthorne wrote from London to Richard Coffin of Portledge, between the years 1687 and 1697. The correspondence began in 1683. Only one or two of the earliest letters survive and they have been omitted from this volume on account of their lack of interest. All the letters of the 1687–1697 period have been included. Where gaps occur the missing letters have doubtless perished, for no trace of them can be found. The correspondence is given in full except for a few unimportant passages. Spellings and punctuations are largely as Lapthorne wrote them. Contractions have, however, in nearly all cases been written in full. Everywhere the contractions 'Ye,' 'Ym,' 'Yn,' were used for 'the,' 'them,' and 'then,' and make tiresome reading for modern eyes, whilst 'Nacçon' for 'nation' and 'lres' for 'letters' seemed strange enough to demand footnotes if left unchanged. The Lapthorne Letters were examined by the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts in 1874 and many extracts from them, as well as from other documents in the Portledge collection, were printed in the Blue Books which contained the results of the Commissioners' inquiries. About thirty years ago it was thought well to arrange the letters in a series of books, the original in each case being pasted on one page and a transcript in modern writing on the other. The letters were carefully examined again in 1926–1927 and prepared for publication. The notes which have been added (as sparingly as possible) have been taken largely from the *National Dictionary of Biography*, the *Newgate Calendar*, contemporary diaries and the *Complete Peerage*.

It is a matter for regret that nothing is known of Richard Lapthorne other than what can be gleaned from the letters

themselves. From these it appears that he was of Devon blood, that he lived in Hatton Garden and that he was married to a sister of a Master in Chancery. He had two sons small enough in 1688 to be taken to see a 'dwarf Switzer' and to be measured against him for height. One of them subsequently went to Eaton (*sic*) and afterwards to Pembroke College, Oxford. The only indication as to Lapthorne's age is the reference to a contemplated journey to Plymouth on horseback which he expected would be his last visit to his native county.

It is unlikely that Lapthorne was an attorney in spite of his interest in legal matters, nor would it seem probable that he was a professional writer of a weekly news-letter to country squires for his correspondence is of too particular an interest. He certainly acted as London agent for Richard Coffin of Portledge from 1683 (and perhaps earlier) until the latter's death in 1698. His chief duties were, the writing of a weekly letter, the purchase of rare books for the Portledge Library and the buying of such goods for the Coffin family – 'Faxen perriwigs,' 'Saddles' and the like – as could not well be purchased at Bideford or Exeter.

More is known of Lapthorne's patron and employer, Richard Coffin. He was born posthumously in 1622, inheriting the family property of Alwington and the Alwington Manor House, Portledge, on the day of his birth.[1]

His portrait shows him as a lad of sixteen or seventeen, apparently, from the book he carries in his hand, already of studious habit. Only twenty when the Civil War broke out he stayed quietly in North Devon throughout the con-

[1] Richard Coffin was succeeded in 1698 by his son Richard, who died in 1766, father and son between them having held the property for the extraordinary period of 144 years.

test. He was, however, of Royalist sympathies, and it was not until Richard Cromwell had succeeded his father as Lord Protector that his name appears in connexion with the public life of the country.

At the age of sixty-seven Richard Coffin became for the year 1685 High Sheriff of Devon, and so was forced to take part in the Bloody Assize. His under-sheriff was a Mr. Thomas Northmore, an attorney of Exeter and his own man of business. Lapthorne mentions Northmore several times in his correspondence, and amongst the Portledge Papers not included in this collection is a series of letters from Northmore, those relating to the Shrievalty being of peculiarly gruesome interest. They deal with the disposal of the heads and quarters of those executed for their share in Monmouth's Rebellion. Northmore was later returned to Parliament as burgess for Okehampton.

Richard Coffin was married twice, firstly to Dorothy daughter of John Rowe of Normanton in Leicestershire and secondly to Ann daughter of Edmund Prideaux of Place, Cornwall, and sister of Humphrey Prideaux Dean of Norwich, a divine well-known in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.[1] He had five children: Richard, John, Honor, Catherine and Dorothy. It is from Dorothy, who married Edward Pine, of East Down, that the present Pine-Coffin family of Portledge descend.

Coffin's chief interests in life were the collection of his Library and genealogical research. There are still large manuscript books at Portledge in his handwriting dealing with genealogy and heraldry. One is called a 'Genealogical Survey of Gentlemen entitled to Coat Armour in the South-West of England!' In it a large number of family trees are carefully traced out and numerous armorial bearings

[1] His letters to John Ellis were published in 1875 by the Camden Society – those to his sister Ann are still preserved at Portledge.

depicted. He also added many notes to genealogical MSS., compiled by his ancestors, some of which seem to be of the fifteenth century.

The only known contemporary account of Richard Coffin is by John Prince, who says in his *Worthies of Devon*:

'The present heir and possessor of this ancient seat Portledge is a right worthy and worshipful gentleman of great Piety and virtue and for his Quality of exceeding learning especially in venerable antiquity which has been much his delight and study. He hath a noble Library and knows well to make use of it. He was High Sheriff in the 2nd year of K. James 2, as his ancestor and namesake was in the 2nd year of Henry VIII as it appears by the quietus he had of the Exchequer now in the present gentleman's custody and shown to me by him.'

The Coffin family was of Norman origin. The elder branch lived at Courtitout near Falaise at the time of the Conquest. The present manoir of Courtitout a sixteenth-century building near the ruins of a feudal stronghold was in the possession half a century ago of a lady whose father appears to have been the last male representative of the Norman branch of the Coffin family. The date when the first Coffin came to England is unknown but the name of Sir Richard Coffin of Alwington, knight, appears as early as the reign of Henry II, and from that time until 1766 there was nearly always a Richard Coffin of Portledge. Lapthorne's patron was most careful to collect and preserve everything relating to the family history, and thanks to his care some four hundred documents, charters and other deeds are still preserved at Portledge. The earliest document which existed in his time – a deed in Saxon signed by the Abbott of Tavistock and the then Richard Coffin of Portledge has now disappeared, but the Charter granting Free Warren over all the Manor of Alwington given to

Richard Coffin of Alwington in 1254 by Henry III, is in the Long Gallery at Portledge and is still quite legible.

The Manor of Alwington lies between Bideford and Clovelly. Portledge is situated between the highroad connecting those places and the sea. In Richard Coffin's time the property was more extensive than it is to-day, but the seven miles of coast from Abbotsham in the east to Bucks Mills in the west still belong to the Pine-Coffin family. It is indeed remarkable to what a small extent things have changed in this remote corner of Devon. The country folk still talk as they did in Richard Coffin's time of 'Coffin's pot boiling' when they hear the strange booming sound which comes up from Portledge Mouth to presage storm. The inhabitants of the hamlet of Bucks Mills are as alien from the rest of the tenantry as they were in the reign of William and Mary. There is still but one surname in the tiny village, that of 'Braund.' [1]

But if this be true of the country, the same cannot be said of Portledge itself. All that now stands of the Chapel is a thirteenth-century arch. The old Great Hall has been denuded of its minstrel gallery (moved a hundred years ago to Alwington church and converted into a family pew!). The Courtyard was roofed in and made into a new hall in the middle of the eighteenth century. But saddest of all the changes is the disappearance of the Library, which was replaced by a new wing in the early nineteenth century. The Library, which Richard Lapthorne helped to supply with books, must have been a most interesting structure. It was built over a vaulted under-croft open to the winds after the style of the Chapel of Lincoln's Inn, the space beneath being known as the Piazzetta. Much of the rest of the house remains as in Richard Coffin's time. The Norman door

[1] The Braunds are descendants from Spanish sailors in the Armada who settled at Bucks Mills.

(shown by Mr. Ernest Coffin's drawing) which led into the old great hall has not been touched since it was built in 1236. The Brew House, though now unused, brings back memories of Lapthorne's information as to the price of hops and recalls the fact that hops were at one time grown extensively at Portledge. The Long Gallery retains the elaborately plastered ceiling which Richard Coffin engaged Italian craftsmen to design and some of the panelling and fireplaces in other rooms have not been altered since Elizabethan days. There are also remains of early fortifications and part of the old moat (now covered in), but it is unlikely that these were more in evidence even in the seventeenth century.

There is little else to be said of Richard Coffin. He died on Christmas Day, 1698, having spent all his life on his property and within the confines of his county as nearly all the Coffins before and since have done.

Before bringing this family introduction to a close it may be of interest to mention three Coffins who sought fame beyond their native Devon. A younger son, one Sir William Coffin, in the time of Henry VIII rode away to Court, was one of Henry's knights at the great tournament of Guisnes in 1519, later acted as Master of the Horse to Anne Boleyn and Jane Seymour, married an heiress Marjorie Manners of the Rutland family and served in Parliament as a Knight of the Shire for Derbyshire. Twice after the first emigration from Normandy, Coffins have gone out as Colonists to new worlds. The first time was in 1642 and the second in 1906 (when a New Portledge was founded for a short period in Rhodesia by Tristram Pine Coffin[1]). In the 1642 migration when Richard Coffin was a young man of twenty an earlier Tristram Coffin left Devon for New England. He sailed from Plymouth with his wife, mother and children. He landed in Massachusetts and became one of the fathers of

[1] Tristra. Pine-Coffin came home in 1914 and fell in the Great War.

the New England Colonies. The Coffin house still standing at Newburyport, Massachusetts, was built by him in 1654.[1] In 1775 part of the Coffin family remained loyal to the Crown, and one of Tristram's descendants, General John Coffin (*d.* 1835),[2] helped to found the colony of New Brunswick and built there in 1783 a house which with fidelity to Devon traditions he named Alwington Manor. Other branches of the family Tristram Coffin founded in New England remained in the new United States. Every year numbers of their representatives make pilgrimage to Portledge to see the cradle of the Coffin race. The welcome they receive is a pleasant feature of Anglo-American cousinship. The present Lady of the Manor is however sometimes puzzled by the reflection that Tristram must have been as prolific as all the Pilgrim Fathers put together. On these visits pedigrees are produced and ladies, oftentimes of quite un-English names and appearance, asseverate that their great-grandmother's father was a Coffin of New England breed and true Devonian stock.

RUSSELL J. KERR.
IDA COFFIN DUNCAN.

Our warm thanks, and those of Mrs. Pine-Coffin of Portledge, are due to Mr. Ernest Coffin for his charming illustrations and to Mr. William Bellows for the assistance he has rendered in the preparation of the letters.

[1] It is owned by a descendant.

[2] His brother was the well-known Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin, Bart. (1756–1839), a friend of William IV.

The Portledge Papers

December 10th 1687

I thinke I wrote you formerly that I had bought the Antiquities of Rutlandshire.

I was just now told that the Atturney Generall Sir Edmund Sawyer[1] hath received a superced for his place. Last Lords day or the Sunday before at the French Church at the Savoy 2 Roman Catholic women being converts to the protestant religion made open confession of it.

At the same time 14 persons newly come over from France who were by miserable using forced to leave that Country were readmitted, but wee heare that the French King hath made an edict that it shal be death for one to bring over any more of them.

Undated but probably about December 17th 1687

The manuscripts being sold this weeke there is got for you only The Visitation of Devonshire don by they say a man of fame. it cost 30*s*. A Dorstshire gent bid 28*s*. The manuscripts went at an excessive rate there being a throng of quallity to buy. I bid 5*l*5*s*. for Nor. . ., a thin booke which as I take it went for £5.

There was amongst them and I wonder you took no note of them a great rarity which was much prized viz. 4[2] . . . of the works of Wickliffe bought by the Earle of Kent at £21 od mony. I could have almost wished I had bought them for you at that price but I verily believe the Lord

[1] Really Sir Robert Sawyer (1633–1692). He was at Magdalene College, Cambridge, in 1648 with Samuel Pepys, and is mentioned by the latter in his diary.

[2] The word here is obliterated – the endorsement on the letter is 'manuscripts.'

would have bought them if he had given £50 for them. I hope err these come to your hands you have the account of the bookes bought at the former Auction. Yesterday was published a booke penned by the Bishop of Oxford being the reasons for taking away the Test price 1*s.* 6*d.* which I bought for you. the Impressions are speedily catcht up. There are great floods abroad. One of the Western postmen was drowned last post but the mails taken up but the Letters much damaged. but the floods have bin much more in Ireland. I heard Sir William Barker received a letter from Dublin to him directed dated 6 which gives an accompt of severall streets which lye under water and according to Sir William who knows the place its a third part of the towne. Fryday last was a duell fought twixt Mr. William Wharton[1] son to the Lord Wharton and Mr. Woolsly son to Sir Charles Woolsly.[2] Mr. Wharton was killed. The Queen Dowager hath been dangerously ill in a Quinsey but is now in a way of recovery.

December 24th 1687

The Bishop of Oxfords[3] booke causes a great deale of chatt here and its sayd hee is to bee Archbp. of York.

December 31st 1687

The Grand Signur or Sulton is deposed and imprisoned. its confirmed by Sir William Trumbalds[4] letter to the King who is resident at Constantinople.

[1] Apparently a younger brother of Thomas, 1st Marquis of Wharton (1648–1715).

[2] Sir Charles Wolseley (1630?–1714), a Cromwellian pardoned at the Restoration.

[3] Samuel Parker (1640–1688), Bishop of Oxford 1686, President of Magdalen 1687.

[4] Sir William Trumbull (1639–1716). Accompanied Pepys to Tangier 1683 – acted as judge-advocate. Ambassador to Turkey 1686–1691.

Tenth of January is to be celebrated as a day of Thanksgiving for the Queen being with child.

January 7th 1687(8)

Doctor Tillotson[1] the Dean of Canterbury had an apoplectick or epileptick fit seized on him Fryday sevenight last falling from his chair as he sate by the fire at his house at Edmington but by bleeding and purging is pretty well recovered – some thinke that it proceeded from greefe at the late death of his only daughter. I need not enterteyne you much with news at this tyme. the Gazetts will busy you for their Hystory is very remarkable.

January 21st 1687/8

I hope err these come to your hands you will receive your box. there is one book omitted which I finde at the Auction house a £4 2*s*. 0*d*. viz. Michales de cæco surdo et muto print, which, if you please to have, shall be reserved for you and sent in the next box. I gave a man orders to take speciall care in the collating of them and hee informs mee they are perfect, saving Boxhomms and hee sayth there wants nothing only where the leafes are foaled down there is something double printed and because the booke is a good booke I would not leave it on their hands for so smal a fault. as for Sir W. Temple[2] of the Netherlands I tooke all possible care to get it as cheape as I could. I bought it of Mr. Watts in Pauls church yard a very honest and faire Dealer as also Sir Sym Drews pamphlet and hee protested to mee the one first cost him 3*s*. and the other 9*d*. Temple's was bought up mightily upon a suddaine; its sayd 'twas upon Dr. Barnetts praysing it in some book of his. The manuscript hath no

[1] John Tillotson (1630–1694), later Archbishop of Canterbury.

[2] Perhaps the 'Memoirs' which Swift helped Sir William Temple (1628–1699) to edit. Temple was Ambassador to the Netherlands 1668.

date and therefore I bought it upon the supposition in the letter upon the death of the Lord Cicele. I was told at the Auction that none of the vissitations had dates. Mr. Millington lately told mee hee had a policronicon and would use me kinde for it. I intend to see it. The single printed sheet in the box is worth your seeing, it hath caused much talke here since its coming out. Wee have very litle news stirring at present all things being in a pretty quiet posture, blessed be God. Its reported there is a house in Lyncolns Inn fields fitting up for the Capuchine Fryers.

It seems there is some idle brayne hath made a Lampoone relating to the late Thanksgiving and a strict inquiry is made after the Author who if hee bee discovered will according to his deserts bee severely punisht.

January 28th 1687(8)

This weeke I carried my little boyes to see a Switzer 38 years of age and but 2 foot and 7 inches in stature and had a manlikin countenance and voyce; as thick almost as long. hee sung danced and discoursed. my younger boy is not 7 till May next and is accompted very litle of his age and this Switzer measuring with him came but a little above his waste. The wonders of God are seen as well in minimis as maximis as Pliny observes of Nature in forming the Flie.

February 4th 1687(8)

I am glad you have received the box and the Catalogues. the Divinity quertos in latine were over before I received your letter. this day was no sale but on Munday the messelanea fol begin. I have markt your catalogue according to your letter and shall take the best care in buying for you those books you have noted.

4 or 5 dayes since a strange passage happened which hath bin the generall tatle of the towne since to witt the

Trunck of a mans body left on a dunghill neere Drury lane without head armes or leggs, the body newly dead and this don very exactly as if performed by an Anatomist, the armes and leggs were the same day found at the waters side under the Savoy. great endeavors were presently used for the discovery and yisterday morning a Frenchwoman was apprehended for this fact and was most of yisterday and all this day together with the wittnesshes under the Examinance of Sir Roger Lestrange[1] this body being supposed to bee her husband and this evening wee heare the fact accordinge to proofe is fixed on her. This passage was the more taken notice of by the mobile because about the same tyme some idle braines had sham(me)d Letters to 4 of ye nobillity, viz: Dorst. Danby Shrewsbury and Hallifax intimating as if they did not make their peace by this 27th of January their lives were in Jeopardy. As to the busines of the murder I suppose the next weeke wee shall have a narrative in print and then its likely you may receive it.

February 11*th* 1687(8)

I have bought some of the bookes in the other Auction but some went at that intollerable rates that I blusht to see it. Philostratos went for 50*s*. and sorrily bound and was imperfect. The busines about the Dead carcass is now cleered. the head is found in an house of office neere Exeter House in the Strand and the French midwife confessed the murder of her husband. her son knew of it after the fact. it was his father in law. however much against his mind and told his mother she would dye for it. they are both in prison. There is much discourse that a proclamation is coming out for a parliament to meet in Aprill.

[1] Probably Sir Roger L'Estrange (1616–1704), who was at this time an M.P. He was a writer of pamphlets.

Wee have had a weeke of moderate frost which continews subject to foggs.

February 19th 1687(8)

Yisterday I bought Luther Wittenburgh print. Mr. Pitts sayd was the best for £2 19*s*. 6*d*. 7 vol. which I think was a great pennard. Great discourse now stirring of the speedy meeting of Parliament.

The Bishop of Oxford hath bin twice reported to bee dead – but is living. they say is dangerously sick.

Mr. Hills the King's printer is made a Justice of Peace.

February 1687(8)

This being our Sessions the French midwife was arraigned and pleaded guilty taking the whole fact on herselfe.

Our news letters seeme to intimate as if the Duke of Albemarle were not yet arrived to Jameca but were gon with Sir John Norborough[1] to the Spanish I meane the merged plate and from thence to Jameca.

March 4th 1687(8)

I give dayly attendance at the Auction. good bookes beare a great price. I bought for you yisterday Boysardus. the 3 vol. are bound up in one booke. it cost £3 15*s*. my lord Stanford was competitor but because you were desirous of it I would not let it slip. Mr. Scotts man protested a french woman offred £3 10*s*. in quires for the booke before it was put into the Auction and if so being a scarce booke I think its pretty well. Those bookes that goe at reasonable rates I buy. others that run too high I let slip till better oppertunities. Wee are not come yet to philostratos.

[1] Sir John Narborough (1640–1688), Admiral. Commissioner of the Navy 1680–1687. Went to St. Domingo to recover treasure from a wreck, caught fever and died. See letter of 25 May 1688.

Yisterday the French midwife was burnt in Leicester feilds for murdering her husband and a neighbour of myne is lately committed to Newgate for murdering his wife. Wee live in a wicked world.

March begins here lyon like with frost and high winds.

Undated but endorsed March 11th 1687(8)

As for that of Vosius de Adolitrea etc. it was sold for neer 40*s.* and I remembered I had seen the booke a litle before at Mr. Batemans a booke sellere in Holborne the 2 vol. bound in one and his man sayd cost his master a guyny in quieres, but sayd hee my master would now take 27*s.* for it so that when I saw it goe at such an excessive rate at the Auction I went immediately to Mr. Bateman and bought that at the price of 27*s.* I bought also at the Auction Colganus for 7*s.* I finde in the margin of my catologue num: 772 and 773 Euseb(ius) Nuremburg – but I know not well whether for you, pray if not let me know in your next. I have bought Luther as in my former!

N. 42 Dalæus 5*s.* 9*d.*
N. 190 Rossius 4*s.* 4*d.*
N. 212 vexata Sacri scripti 6*s.* 6*d.*
N. 259 Herbert de relig: Gentil.
N. 260 Dalæus de confermat.
N. 261 De Sacramentis missel fo.
N. 381 Langius 10*s.* 0*d.* very cheape.
N. 415 philostratos £2 2*s.* 6*d.* quart.
N. 43 Palmarius 3*s.* 8*d.*
N. 123 Sacra Gramat. 12*s.* 6*d.*
N. 125 Olaus mag 19*s.* 6*d.* I am not certaine whether I bought this booke but I suppose I did.
N. 185 Kircher 15*s.* 6*d.*
N. 270 Boysardus. The two vol. are bound in one.
N. 80 Eutropius 4*s.* 6*d.*
N. 678 Cartarius 5*s.* 10*d.*
N. 732 Sext Aurel 4*s.* 6*d.*
N. 179 Rossius 7*s.* 0*d.* – oct.

Sir I may be mistaken as to the bookes but that is the best accompt according to my present recollection I can give. The bookes in this Auction goe very deare because of the excellency of them. I shall take the best care I can in buying the remaynder.

March 17th 1687(8)

The Auction goes on some dayly taken up with the phisick. I shall respect your directions as to the remaynder.

Mr. Pitts told mee last night that another part of Atlas is preparing and hee hopes to finish it this summer.

Att the Assizes for Surry a Justice of peace of that County had two sonns condemned for robbing on the highway but not yet executed. I was told by a Frenchman that I know very well that the Dauphine presented to the King his father a list of all the protestants that were deported the Kingdom since the begining of the persecution with a designe to mollify him. but hee gave him this answer – 'Son when you come to raigne take your own course but I am resolved to finish what I have begun' and threw him back the paper.

March 24th 1687–8

In Biblitheca Missoriana were bought for you 4 books viz. N. 18 Jornaudus fo. *7s.* 0*d.* and N. 50 4to Causibonds epistles *5s.* 6*d.* N. 140 Biblitheca Belgica 6*s.* 0*d.* and N. 47 fo. Kings History of Cheshire *5s.* 6*d.* I hope these will meet you safe returned from the Assizes. The Duke of Berwick[1] lyes dangerously ill of the smallpox. On Sunday last a surgeon living in Old Southampton buildings over against Grays Inn going with his wife homewards in the night and meeting one Mr. Ashton of Lyncolns Inn in Chancery Lane

[1] Duke of Berwick (1670–1734), natural son of James II and Arabella Churchill.

who offred some rudnes to the woman was killed by her husband.

7th March[1] 1688

Mr. Scot's auction ended Munday but I have not yet received a Bill of the books bought by mee there but have given orders for it. As to politian I viewed that in Mr. Scot's Auction but found the addition concerning the house of Medices not in it and therefore did not buy it supposing that which I bought at Mr. Cooper's auction long since to bee as good. I returne thanks for the relation of things touching your Assizes, etc. Wee heare a discourse in towne that the King of Spaine hath lately declared the Duke of Bavaria to bee his successor if hee dye without issue though the King of France bee nearest in priority – for on that match it was agreed that the King of France should never make any clayme to that Crowne upon any pretence of mariage, and some think that if this bee true it may alter some of the French King's measures.

Mr. Barker the Clarke of the Crowne is suspended the execution of his office and one Sir Robert Clark of Lincolns Inn put in that place. Mr. Barker hath had office above 30 yeares, I am told hee was reprooved for not speeding the Comissions for the peace against the last Circuits. Wee heare of a great Inundation that lately happened in South Wales which hath don much damage to that Cuntry, and that the like hath happened neer Bridgewater in Somersetshire. And our news letters specify that there was taken out of the belly of a sheepe lately killed at a gent's house neer this towne a Fawne which was carried to Whitehall for the strangenes of it. About two dayes since some boys as usuall about this season of the yeare being drawne up in two Batalias parish against parish neer us and a Granadeer coming

[1] But should be 7th April.

by with his armes and in drink entered the lists with one body of the boyes and his gun being charged with small shott discharging the same killed two boys and hurt a third for which hee is in Newgate.

April 14th 1688

Wee heare that the King of France hath made proposalls to the Dutch for a league offensive and defensive. The Gazette will give you an accompt of the great catastraphe at Constantinople attended with fire and blood. There is a new charter going Downe for Totnes next weeke.

April 21st 1688

Forraigne news mentions the French clergies dissatisfaction for that the King of France hath permitted some of the Church books to bee translated in their mother tongue. The princess of Denmark[1] hath lately miscarried of child. the smallpox is very rife and mortall in and about the towne. Doctor Cleggatt minister of Grayes Inn who dyed lately in that distemper his Lady is since dead in the same.

The Spitle Sermons were this Easter preacht at our Church of St. Andrews. Bishop of Peterborough preacht Monday, Dr. Sharpe Dean of Norwich Tuesday and Doctor Fowler Deane of Glos. Wednesday. Its sayd some Aldermen are lately put out and others will be in their places. And perticularly Its said that Alderman Raymond is out and Mr. Cornish son of the late deceased Alderman Cornish[2] is put in his sted.

[1] Anne, daughter of James II, later Queen of England.

[2] Henry Cornish (d. 1685), Alderman of London, was a strong Whig and had been condemned and executed for implication in the Rye House plot.

April 29th 1688

Its discoursed generally as if a parliament will certainly meet in October next. This is our sessions weeke and I heare its great. I think it ends this night. I heare but litle of the perticulars yet. I suppose Tuesday the narrative will come out. Thursday night about 9 of the clock one Mr. Rous a Midlesex Gent of reasonable quallity, comely personage, about 62 yeares of age, who lodged the next dore to us and has a daughter married that lodgeth with her husband in a house over against us where hee then was with some company and taking a pipe of Tobacco and very merry and in seeming good health. his pipe dropt out of his mouth and hee instantly dyed without speaking a word. *Its sayd this Mr. Rous was of the Lord Russell's Jury.*[1]

There is a Declaration come out this day which I knew not of when above were written for a parliament to meet in November next.

May 5th 1688

Yisterday Sir Charles Pym dyning at a Taverne in old fish street in London an unhappy quarrell ariss betwixt him and a stranger in another roome in the house who by chance going out together from the house into the street they drew and Sir Charles was run through and dyed presently. And the night before some men run into the Lord Dorset's house in Lincolns Inn feilds. his men shutting the gates and seizing them were carried to the Roundhouse but one of the Company when his Lordship was going to bed was found under the bed who was also sent to the others. I am told that the next day upon Examination before the Justice they pretended they had bin in a quarrell and run in thither for shelter.

[1] This is an allusion to the trial of William Lord Russell, who was executed for High Treason in 1683 in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

May 12th 1688

In pursuance of your last I have bought the last and best edition of Dyers reports which cost 23*s.* and shal be sent with your other books.

Wee have but litle news only the King hath bin this weeke to Chatham to view the shipping and was wanting 3 days. in the Interim the Queen receiving a Letter of the sicknes of her brother the Duke of Modena fell very ill upon it insomuch that the King was sent for and came presently away without his Guard, but the Queene is now well againe. the Queries about the Test have bin put to the Officers of the Custome house and to the clerks of the Halls of the London Companies.

May 19th 1688

I have bought for you I hope a periwigg that will please you of the size that is now worne and faxen for £1 12*s.* 6*d.* which shall be sent with your things.

Wee heare this day that Alba Regalia[1] is surrendered upon termes. there hath bin a great assembly of the Clergy in and about London to consider about the reading his majesty's Declaration[2] tomorrow and its sayd they have determined not to reade it in many places if not the most.

May 25th 1688

Inclosed are the Gazetts and in the last you will finde a clause from Jameca that relates a dredfull passage of an earthquake in the kingdom of perue. I am told that the towne according to the Mapp is 4 miles round. what this means God alone knows hee being now entering into controversy with the Heathen and what may our doombs bee that are

[1] In Stuhlweissenberg in Hungary. It was the Coronation and burial place of the Hungarian kings 10th–16th centuries.

[2] The Declaration of Indulgence.

Christians since wee have by our actions don so much dishonor to his name and walked so contrary to the pure light of his word.

Friday or Satturday sevenight severall of the Bishops carryed a petition to Whitehall as I am informed desiring to bee excused from sending the King's declaration to bee read in the parish churches in and about London etc. but its sayd the King seemed to bee displeased and bid them read it at their perill. but it seemes they did not send them so as it was not read as I heare not in above 6 or 7 churches or chappells about this towne. what they will do tomorrow is not known but its thought no more than was don the last Lords day.

It seemes Sir John Norborow[1] hath not bin successfull in his fishing for more of the Spaniards' plate having gotton but one tun and a halfe which comes to £12,000 and is brought hither but will not quitt costs.

June 2nd 1688

I have just now sent to the Exeter carrier two large Boxes directed to you at Portledge in which are your bookes and a periwigge the perticulars of them you will see when I send your bill which I suppose you will receive by the tyme the boxes come to your hands.

Wee have had here a strange kinde of distemper[2] that hath generally seized on man and Beast, viz: horses; amongst the later much mortall but blessed bee God of the first scarce any dyed, taken suddenly a kind of aguish feaver with aches over the whole body much like a Rhumitism so that they are faine to keepe their beds many for a day or two and then after a sweat it doth as suddainly goe off. in some places whole families taken so but the major parts of all the families about

[1] See letter of Feb. 1687(8) *ante*.
[2] Influenza!

the towne and I heare its so in the country adjacent. I spoke with an Apothecary my Neighbor a good understanding man and hee sayth the panacea or generall remedy amongst the ordinary sort of people is a pennyworth of Venice Treacle in a Gill of Canary and so sweat with it. Wee heare that the King of France is very ill againe and its thought will not live long. Mr. Walters that killed Sir Charles Pym was tryed yisterday and brought in guilty of manslaughter only. There was present at the old Bayly at the Tryall Judge Allibon[1] and Baron Jenner,[2] the Jury were for bringing him in guilty of wilfull murder but the Judges directed it manslaughter only and so prevayled. There was a Goldsmith that once lived neer us in Holborne but being formerly questioned about clipping of mony removed into the Citty and there being severall tryed this session for that and coyning and this Goldsmith being againe under some suspicion and ordered to attend the session cut his throat. hee was reputed to bee a man worth tenn thousand pounds.

The Queene dowager[3] now resolves to stay in England and live and dye here for which the Inhabitants neere Somerset house are very joyfull because shee paid well for what shee had. Wee heare that beefe is for 3*d*. a pound in Ireland which is as much as 9*d*. here as its sayd.

June 10*th* 1688

Yisterday 7 Bishops appeared at Councell Table the King present viz: Archbishop Canterbury, Ely, Bath and Wells, Chichester, Peterborough, St. Asaph, and Bristoll and after

[1] Sir Richard Allibon (1636–1688). A Roman Catholic educated at Douai. Unpopular because he found against the Seven Bishops.

[2] Sir Thomas Jenner (1637–1707), Baron of the Exchequer. He was arrested in 1688 when attempting to escape with James II and sent to the Tower. Later he resumed practice at the Bar.

[3] Catherine of Braganza, who lived at Somerset House.

two howers debate all sent to the Tower where they yet remayne. The King offered to take their bayle but they refused because of their prerogative, etc. Just now a sad accident happened in Sir George Treby's family[1] my neighbor. His child about 3 yeares old sitting in the window two pare of stares [up] fell out upon a pavement in the garden. I heare its not yet dead. I writt you in my last of the distemper of man and horse about the towne and least the same distemper amongst horses should come into your parts I will conclude this Letter with a prescription of Doctor Lowers for a generall good viz: R. – a pinte of white wine: dyapente and flower of Brimstone each one ounce: 2 pennyworth of London treacle mixt together and give it warme in the morning in a drench. I omitted the telling the reason of the Bishops comittment – you may guesse at it viz for not causing the reading the King's declaration etc.

June 16th 1688

The Auction for the Catologue I sent is put off to Munday sevenight for it seemes because of the troubles which the Bishops lately incurred, the Clergy were disheartened to bee then present and the catologue begun with Theolog: books. But yisterday being the first day of the Terme the bishops appeared by writt of habeas corpus at the Kings bench bar. They insisted on the priviledges of their peerage which tooke up some tyme but overuled, and an Information being read to them they pleaded not guilty and that day Fortnight appointed for Tryall but the Court tooke their own security each in a £100 and the Archbishop in £200 for their appearance at the day prefixed for tryall and so retyred to their own habitations. Wee are informed that there were present in Court 20 or more off the Lay nobillity to bayle them if

[1] Sir G. Treby (1644–1700) was at one time Recorder of London and was Counsel for the Bishops at their trial.

there had bin occasion. That wee had a prince of Wales[1] born last Lords day can bee no news now to you. Wee are to have a day of Thanksgiving tomorrow and I am told that the Citty conduits are filled with wine at least one or some of them. Wee had the last lords day after evening prayers ringing of Bells and Bonefires. Our Bill of Mortallity increases and the distemper amongst horses continues. Wee have now seasonable weather and people busy at Haymaking – Yisterday was a call of 16 new sergeaunts whereof two are excused as I am informed. I received a letter out of Devonshire yisterday that gives an accompt of damage dun by Inundation caused by suddaine raine neer Exeter of severall houses distroyed and in one 5 or 6 persons lost their lives: also that at plympton at the reading of the King's declaration all the people went out of the Church save eight.

June 23rd 1688

Great preparation is making for the Bishops' Tryall Fryday next. there is to bee a Jury agreed before the Clerk of the Crowne according to the books of antient Freeholders.

I finde by your Letters and Letters from others that there are many suddaine deaths viz by accidents etc. Sir Jonathan Kent in Hartfordshire at whose house I was last sumer told mee this day that Tuesday last hee had two men killed by the fall of a banck of chalk on them in the pitt where they were digging – Sunday night last there was a gent of £400 per annum killed in the Strand about 12 o'clock at night. run into the body: his gutts hung out and a gent walking wth him and don so quick that they did not see it don neither did the gent his freind perceive anything till hee fell. and

[1] James Francis Edward (1688–1766) 'The Old Pretender.' His birth was received with a general lack of enthusiasm – evidently shared by Richard Lapthorne, who in later letters recounts the steps taken by James II to dispose of the rumour that the Prince was a supposititious child.

the last night one Mr. Courtopp of the Alienation office[1] shoot himselfe to death wth a pistoll. They canot imagine the cause save hee had a summons from Baron Jenner about something that concerned his office. Wee have good Hayweather but extraordinary hot.

June 30th 1688

Yisterday the Bishops Tryall came on at the King's Bench bar where was a great Audience and tooke up many howers. the Judges were devided in their directing the Jury. Lord Chief Justice Wright[2] and Justice Allabon were for convicting them. Holloway[3] and Powell[4] for their Acquittall. the Jury were together till 3 of the clock this morning and at the sitting of the Court this forenoone brought in their veredict 'not guilty' to the great rejoycing of the people. A greater joy I have not perceived on such an occasion these many yeares and truly I think it is because they suppose the bulk of the protestant religion was much Interessed therein. There was a great toast at Lincolns Inn hall at the Installment of the new sergeants. I heare that 20 merchants ships are markt out for the Kings peculiar service but on what occasion wee know not.

July 7th 1688

Att the Bonefires made this day sevenight at night for the Acquittall of the Bishops there was a man killed before the

[1] Alienation Office. One of the offices now abolished connected with the old system of transfer of lands by means of fines and recoveries.

[2] Sir Robert Wright (d. 1689). He presided at the Trial of the Seven Bishops. He was impeached of High Treason by William of Orange and died in Newgate in 1689.

[3] Sir Richard Holloway. He was dismissed by James II for his action in the Trial of the Seven Bishops.

[4] Sir John Powell (1633–1696), Judge of Common Pleas and later of King's Bench. He was against the Declaration of Indulgence.

Lord Salisbury's house and some say by a gun shott off by one of his servants.

A fire happened at the wells at Tunbridge and burnt down a faire range of Newbuildings erected by Mr. Neale[1] the Groomeporter, some say to the valew of £300 per Annum but the same day the news was brought hee recovered a veredict against the Lady Ivy[2] in Westminster Hall for an Estate of a much greater valew. Wee are informed that there are added to the privy Councell Sir John Trevor[3] the Master of the Rolls, Col. Titus[4] and Mr. Christopher Vane son to Sir Henry Vane.

Sir John Bury was of the Jury for Tryall of the Bishops but did not appeare.

Two writts of superced were delivered to Mr. Justice Holloway and Justice Powell the last day of the Terme in the Afternoone but not yet certainly known who go the Circuit in their roome.

July 14th 1688

I blush and am somewhat confused to think that as I remember in my last I possitively wrote that I would give an accompt of the perticulars of the books which indeed I canot at present and therefore begg your pardon – only 3 I can give accompt of viz: 'polibius not. var.' 3 vol and Kir-

[1] Thomas Neale (d. 1699?), Master of the Royal Mint and Groom Porter to Charles II.

[2] The Lady Ivy tried to prove her claim to a large estate in Shadwell. Lord Chancellor Jeffreys found that the documents on which she based her claim were forged.

[3] Sir John Trevor (1637–1717), Judge and Speaker of House of Commons. He remained faithful to James II and was displaced, was then reinstated and finally deprived of Speakership for taking bribes – see later letters.

[4] Silius Titus (1623–1704), a Politician. Started life as a Roundhead then turned Royalist, and although he became a Privy Councillor, as Lapthorne relates, under James II, swiftly transferred his allegiance to William III.

chers' turris Babell and palmerus. if the last bee not already sent – I mean palmerus – I am promissed 'purfendorfius Hist suæ vitæ' etc. to bee bound out of Quiers. The Ecclisiasticall Comissioners sate Thursday last and as I heare have made an order that all the Arch Deacons in every County shall send the names of all their Ministers that read and not read the Kings declaration. It is credibly reported here that the late Admiral Herbert[1] has gon into Holland. On Tuesday next at night will bee a great Enterteynment of Fireworks on the Thames to congratulate her Majestie's coming abroad after the birth of the prince. I heard an Italian say who is and hath bin Imployed about these Fireworks that it will cost his Majesty Five and twenty thousand pounds according to the calculation of their books and that 300 men have bin Imployed neer 4 months about them. I was informed that the last weeke an Irish Roman Catholic and English protestant soldier at the Camp were at variance about some points of their religion and that afterwards the English being asleepe in his Tent was killed by the Irish and being caught in the fact enraged very much the soldiery but his Majesty happening to bee then in the Camp and saying hee should bee hanged quieted them and I heare hath bin since tryed and executed.

July 21*st* 1688

Tuesday night last was performed the great entertaynment by Fireworks on the Thames about 11 of the clock. I heare but of one that was killed. there were as I am informed above 100,000 spectators. It lightned exceedingly all the while. Wee have certaine news of Sir John Norborow's death aboard a ship in the Harbor where the wreck

[1] Arthur Herbert Earl of Torrington (1647–1716). The word 'late' refers to the fact that Admiral Herbert had been cashiered in 1687 for refusing to support the repeal of the Test Act. He escorted William III to England.

lyes for which I am sorry. hee was my good freind. The Lord chancellor Jefferys son[1] was this week married to the late Earle of Pembrooks daughter by the Dutches of Portsmouth's sister. Yisterday was carried to Tyburne in a coach and there executed alone a young man, lately servant to Mr. Winch a scrivener, for comitting a rape on a girle of about 10 yeares of age. the King was then at Chatham. It was wondred hee had not bin pardoned because they say the evidence was doubtfull. Mr. John Trenchard[2] having had his pardon is come into England. I saw him yisterday.

Wee have this passage as to forraigne concerns viz: That the French Fleet lying before Argiers and throwing in many Bombes they sent word to the Admirall that if hee desisted not they would send to him in a Canon the French Consull but hee persisting they made good their promisse. I suppose his head only. And the French by way of revenge having 30 Argerine slaves aboard cut them in peices and layd their quarters on planks and by the waves floated them towards the towne.

July 28*th* 1688

I received yours yisterday. after I received went to the Three Leggs in the poultry and saw Mordens Geography. Its a large Quarto full of Mapps price 10*s*., nothing wil be abated, it seemes to bee a good book. I will make enquiry farther as to that. As to Kircher's parabella [3] Latii etc I was mistaken if I wrote it was bought. I was also yisterday wth

[1] John Jeffreys (1670–1702), 2nd Baron Jeffreys. His bride was Charlotte, daughter of the 7th Earl of Pembroke.

[2] Sir John Trenchard (1640–1695). Arrested in connexion with Monmouth but acquitted. He escaped to the Continent and was there pardoned by James II. In 1692 became Secretary of State for the Northern Department. The present heir to the Portledge estate, Captain Claude Pine-Coffin, married a descendant of Sir John Trenchard and has a son whose name is Trenchard Pine-Coffin.

[3] Parallela.

Mr. Litlebury the most likliest man for Higdon's policronicon: but hee hath none. I shall continew my Inquest for that and for Politian. I have not yet bin for Barnes his ed 3*d*. but in my next shall give you an accompt. I suppose you know that the old Duke of Ormond[1] is dead and the University of Oxford as wee are informed presently upon notice of it had a convocation and chose the young duke his grandson Chancellor and that since his Majesty hath recomended another.

Also from Ireland wee are informed that a preist, I have forgotten his name, of the Roman Catholic religion hath openly and solemly renounced it and Initiated by a protestant Bishop at the same tyme into the protestant church. The Court is gon to Windsor.

Judge Rotheram[2] is gon the Oxford circuit and tooke one Mr. Burgess an Nonconformist minister with him as his chaplin. This Burgess is a man of extraordinary ripe parts and before the circuit hee was wished by the Judge to penn a short tract for Instruction and admonition to such criminalls as should be condemned in order to their preparation for death to bee distributed by him as there should bee occasion. its a litle book printed but of 2 sheets of paper and truly I think accurately don for so few words. the price 2*d*. And I could wish you to take a half dozen. they may one tyme or another bee of use to some in extremity.

August 3rd 1688

According to the season of the yeare the Court is at Windsor, the Judges and Lawyers in their Circuits and the gentry at the Wells and their Cuntry houses. It was sayd a few days since some of the looser sort of the soldiers attempted to rob an orchard neere the Camp of which the

[1] James Butler, 12th Earl and 1st Duke of Ormonde (1610–1688).

[2] Sir John Rotheram (1630–1696?) defended Richard Baxter 1685.

provoes or provosts that are set over them for an Inspection on such occasions taking notice and bringing them onto the Camp, some of the Army there endeavored to rescue them out of their hands which occasioned some disorder and some say death, but his Majesty coming soone after to the Camp sifted things so as that some of those that were the originall occasion of the stirr have received condigne punishment. Wee have news of a whale of a great bignes is taken in the Thames neere Maldon in Essex. And I was told that there is so great a plenty of pilchards already taken in Cornwall that one Mr. Guavis who hath an Impropriation hath received 600 hogsheds for tythes but this I question, you are neerer that place than I. Wee have here excellent harvest weather and great plenty of fruit.

August 11*th* 1688.

The Army is discamped at Hounsloe heath. Wednesday the 8th of this instant at night a terrible fire happened neer puddledock in Thames street which burnt downe 40 houses – some losed their lives viz: one Mr. Clously at the Swan Taverne in Fish street which was one of Mr. Cornish[1] his Jury. Hen Cave that wrote the pacquets of Advice and since the weekly occurences is dead. Sir Roger Lestrange[2] as we are informed is sick. there happened a sad accedent as they were experimenting the firing of Bombes in an old Hulk of a ship on the Thames a few days since. it seemes the fire-wicks tooke flame by surprise and killed two men and woonded as its sayd about 10 more.

August 19*th* 1688

I was lately with Mr. Litlebury about the policronicon

[1] Henry Cornish, a City Alderman who was condemned and executed for alleged implication in the Rye House Plot.

[2] Sir Roger L'Estrange (1616–1704).

hee hath promissed the first hee meets with hee will give mee notice of it. As for those books that remayne of Mr. Scotts Auction shal be sent when you give orders. I heare there is another Auction of Mr. Scotts books preparing against Michelmas Terme. There was a litle printed accompt of what passed on life and death in the Home Circuit and in every Cunty more or less accused for murdering of Bastard children. About two days since As wee are informed a comander in Col. Kirks[1] Regement killed a waterman as hee landed in Southwark side where they are quartered upon a very slight occasion which was flashing a litle water casually with an oare on the officer's Coat, but this enraged the people and as they were conveying him to Justice a party of soldiers rescued him so that there was like to have bin a more then ordinary tumult but it was fortunately quelled.

According to the Adjournment of the Ecclissiasticall Comissioners they met this weeke and only 4 Archdeacons made their appeerance and certificat but they made no order thereon but adjourned to the first Thursday in December which is I think the 6th. Severall matters were moved on the behalfe of women who live seperate from their husbands for mayntenance and Allymony as Namely the Dutchess of Norfolk[2] and others and some orders made thereon. there was seized lately one Weldon a Button seller's apprentice in paternoster row and comitted to Newgate for dispersing a paper relating to the last great fire in Collame street though its thought it was don out of an idle braine and not much more in it but hee confessed its sayd on his examinance to bee lately converted to the Roman Catholic Religion. his father was a minister and once ordinary of Newgate and

[1] Percy Kirke (1646?–1691), Colonel of 'Kirke's Lambs.'

[2] By birth Mary Mordaunt, Baroness Mordaunt in her own right. Separated from Henry, 14th Duke of Norfolk, on account of her own misconduct in 1685. See letter of 26 November 1692 and note.

I think had in the tyme of the civill warrs a benefice neer plymouth in Devon. the matter conteyned in the paper is meerly Nonsense mentioning the burning of the Citty and the exalting of Rome and all must turne or burne and such stuffe.

August 25th 1688

I received yours last night as for Kirchers books you want I hope I shall procure them for you having this weeke to buy some old books for myselfe of one that had lately bought some. I found amongst them Higdon's policronicon, the Bookeseller, though an old and cuning Artist, it fell out was ignorant of the Author. I bought the booke for 8*s*.[1] and I suppose may have twenty shillings of a bookseller for my bargaine. I think its perfect which is very rare. It hath an old deformed dress but I think you had best let it goe so because of its Antiquity and not new binde it. However Sir I am glad I met with so good a pennyworth for you and I wish I could meet with another such for myselfe. There hath bin lately a most terrible earthquake at Smyrna that hath as its sayd destroyed almost all the Citty. Severall of our English Factors destroyed in it. Mr. Barnardiston[2] Mr. Stephens et alia. It seemes when the Ecclisiasticall Court sate last the Bishop of Rochester sent his letter to the Board desiring them to intercede to his Majesty to excuse him from that Imployment etc. Its reported from Holland that one Monsieur Tilliar under the disguise of a French protestant but indeed a Roman Catholick being at the Hague had comitted some treachery against the States for whom they

[1] A copy of Higden's *Historia que dicit Polichronicon*, 1339, Latin MS. on vellum, formerly belonging to the Croyland Abbey library, was sold at Sotheby's on 24 March 1898 for £37.

[2] This may refer to one of the four sons of Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston (1588–1653), all of whom were well-known merchants in the Levant.

sending being conscious of his crimes made resistance and was killed on the spott but I think I mentioned this in my last. Judge Allibon is dead. The Lord Mayor[1] coming Thursday night from proclayming the Faire etc. his Horse threw him off under Newgate. Wee have had severall men hurt and murdered lately by the soldiers and I was just now informed that two men were killed by them last night neer Ratcliff. Its sayd his Majesty declared last night at Windsor in Counsell the parliament shall meet 27th of November and appointed a day certaine for issuing fourth of the writts.

August 31*st* 1688

The Lord Mayors fall hath caused him to keepe his bed ever since hee hath bin so dangerously ill that hee hath bin severall tymes reported to bee dead. The great preparations of the Dutch and equipage they are at present in hath much amazed their neighbors. Wee heare his Majesty is in much forwardnes in his navall preparations and so intent in that affaire that Carpenters work Sundays, seamen are pressed at the Downs that are come home from voyages and the drums beat up for volunteers towards the waters-side and about Tower Hill. Judge Allibon lyes in state.

September 7th 1688

Tuesday 3rd instant dyed Sir John Shorter the Lord Mayor. Also about the same tyme Sir Robert Vyner[2] once also Lord Mayor. I was credibly informed by a French protestant gent that the last Lords day a French Roman Catholick gent of good quallity borne and bread in that religion publicly at the Savoy Church made his recantation

[1] This was Sir John Shorter, grandfather of Lady Walpole, Horace's mother.

[2] Sir Robert Viner, 1st Baronet (1631–1688).

and was admitted into the protestant Church. Its sayd that some of the cheefe comanders of the Army lying about Portsmouth making some scruple to fill up their companies with some Irish according to order are sent for to appeare at Windsor Munday next and its thought some of them wilbe punisht for their Refusall.

September 15th 1688

As for ye price of hops I have made Inquiry of a Hop merchant here and afterwards mett with an Acquaintance and understand by them that the price is £3, £3 5*s*. and £3 10*s*., according as they are in goodnes but £3 10*s*. is the usual price. It seemes it is a great Hop yeare and there is a great quantity of French hops brought over which are not yet consumed. The writts for the Parliament are sealed. The Lord Spencer the E. of Sunderland's sonn is dead in France. There hath bin great noys about a Captains tossing the Mayor of Scarborough in a Blanket. He hath bin at Windsor to make his complaint and is now in London. Wee heare that the Officers that refused to fill up their companies with the Irish are put out of Comission.

About the end of September 1688

Wee have bin for some dayes and still continew under a great consternation expecting howerly to heare of the dutch landing. Yisterday the 7 Bishops lately in trouble were to wayt on his Majesty at Whitehall as wee are informed the King having ordered them soe to do and its sayd His Majesty declared unto restoring of the Bishop of London as also the Fellows of Magdalen Colledge and some say that hee also told them hee would annul the Comission for the Ecclesiasticall Court. its sayd hee is making all preparations imaginable by sea and land to defend the Kingdom and that himselfe wilbe in the command of his army and

that they wilbe speedily imbodyed. There is a report the Royall standard wilbe set up somewhere neere St. Albans or in that roade.

October 6th 1688

Since my last the old citty charter is restored and confirmed and this day Sir John Chappell is sworne Mayor who was one of the old Court of Aldermen and Sir John Isles put out but they met yisterday at Guildhall the Chancellor present but they could make no setlement. Sir John Prichard[1] should have bin reinstated Mayor but hee made some Hesitation as to its acceptance so that for about 24 howers the government of the citty was dissolved but now its setled againe.

His Majesty continews his preparations by beating for volunteers and pressing for seamen. Notwthstanding this concussion of affaires its to bee wondered that the people are no more affected with the danger their countenances making but litle show of the dark apprehentions they should have of this expedition.

October 13th 1688

On Thursday last was chosen at Guildhall in pursuance of the old Charter the Lord Mayor Sherriffs Chamberlains and other grand officers for the Citty. Sir John Chapman[2] is continewed Mayor by election. Sir Humfry Edwin and Mr. Fleet are sherriffs and Sir Peter Rich Chamberlayne. the Election was free and quiet without any heats and so seeme all things to be caryed on at this tyme and this fect and that in oposition one against another not so much the busnes as formerly but the protestants generally goe on in

[1] Probably Sir William Pritchard (1632?–1705), who had been Lord Mayor in 1682.

[2] Or Chappell, *vide* previous letter.

their honest vocations and affaires without heats or Animosityes. Just as I came home to my house this evening after candle light I met the Mayor and Sherriffs coming from Whitehall but what the occasion I know not.

I doe not perceive the people here to be under any great consternation notwthstanding the Impendant menace of an Invasion.

October 27th 1688

I received yours yisterday and am glad you received my miscarried letter as also the Catologue of Mr. Scott's bookes though I think the Auction willbe put off because of these troublesome tymes. I called just now at Mr. Chiswell's shop for an accompt of what they have don in getting the particulars in the paper but nether Mr. Chiswell nor his man that had the paper were within. I intend to call againe next week. On Munday last was a meeting according to sumons of severall of the Nobillity Bishops and Judges etc. at Whitehall. His Majesty present and many wittnesses were examined upon oath touching the Birth of the prince of Wales, and his Majesty offred to send for the Queene and this day the wittnesses were againe examined in the Court of Chancery at Westminster in order for the Inrollment of their depositions in that Court so that that busnes is made very cleere and this day came out a proclamation against uttering and spredding of false and seditious news.

Sir Thomas Stringer was made this Terme a Judge in the King's Bench. The Town is full of soldiers and so are the Cuntrys adjacent especially in Kent. The Irish Regement lately come to towne and quartered in Holborne behave themselves very orderly. On Sunday last 2 Irish soldiers passing the street by St. Michaells Church in Cornill and some roguish boys abusing them the soldiers being strangers run into the Church for protection and cryed out Mercy

Mercy but the people being frighted mistooke it for Massacre, Massacre and so the whole congregation was put into disorder and some hurt received by it.

November 10th 1688

I received yours yisterday but I presume since the writing thereof you have received one from mee which Intimates the putting off the Auction for Mr. Scotts bookes. I had forgotton to mention in my last that I suppose the two Gazetts you want afterwards came to your hands in the Letter that miscarried for some days if not it shall be sent. I have not yet received the books from the Auction which are to bee sent. I was there last night and Tuesday is appointed peremptory when I intend to see againe and was also last night with Mr. Chiswell who hath promissed that all the tracts shallbe prepared so as to bee sent this day sevenight. This day the Kings Artillery set out towards the West. As for other news you canot now expect because of the King's late proclamation only perticular occurences. Wee may mention two cittizens of London are lately dead vastly rich viz: Alderman Jefferys the Tobacconist or smoaker who left an estate behinde him of three hundred thousand pounds but nether wife nor child the other was Alderman Lucy who dyed very rich and left only one daughter. There is a passage very remarkable relating to this discourse, viz: that these two gents were intimate freinds and Associats in their life tyme the first Jefferies lay a considerable tyme sick and some two or three dayes before his death as he lay in his bed had this expression I wonder quoth hee that never a one of my servants is at leasure to take in a Funerall tickett for mee to goe to Ald: Lucy's buryall. Now Lucy being then in good health they thought it was only a delirious whim but Lucy though then well fell sick and dyed wthin 2 or 3 dayes after.

November 17th 1688

This day as I am informed came out a proclamation for the putting off of Exeter Fairè but I did not see it.

His Majesty went for Windsor this afternoone and I am told the prince of Wales is also removed out of towne this day.

November 24th 1688

I was at Mr. Litlebury's this morning where I saw Kirchers parallela Latii a very faire one but will not bate one penny of 25*s*. its a scarce booke. I have not yet bought it. There was lately a skirmish neere Wincanton twixt a part of the Kings and Prince of Oranges army. the Kings comanded by Captaine Sarsfeild[1] who had the better.

December 1st 1688

The whole Kingdom lyes under a great convulsion at this tyme all parts of it in great disorder. God alone knows what the issue wilbe. Wee heare that Lord Hallifax,[2] Lord Nottingham and Lord Godolphin are going Comissioners from His Majesty to treat with the Prince of Orange who its sayd will this night lodge at the Lord Abington's[3] house in wiltshire. this day issued a proclamation for a parliament according to the Chancellors relation in Westminster Hall.

[1] Patrick Sarsfield (d. 1693), the famous defender of Limerick.

[2] Sir George Savile, Marquess of Halifax (1633–1695). As Lapthorne relates he was sent by James II with Nottingham and Godolphin to treat with William of Orange. He was afterwards chairman of the meeting of peers which invited William to set up a provisional government and later requested the Prince and Princess of Orange to accept the Crown.

[3] Probably James Bertie, 1st Earl of Abindon (1653–1699), one of the peers who invited William of Orange to England. Although he lived principally in Berkshire and Oxfordshire he appears to have had a property by right of his wife in Wiltshire.

December 8th 1688

There is nothing but what tends to war in all places of the Nation that wee can heare of, God send us peace yet instead of war if it bee his blessed will and prevent the effusion of Christian blood. Wee had yisterday and also this day rumor of the landing of French – yisterday's relation was that it was in Kent but this day at St. Ives in Cornwall but its supposed to bee false for false rumors never more abounded in this Nation which causes the greater inflamations in the spirits of the people. Our Sessions are ended and wee heare that a bill of Indictment was given in to the Middlesex Jury of High Treason against the Earle of Salisbury[1] for changing his Religion and that they found it billa vera. Its strange that they should bee so forward to medle with Religion already.

The Prince of Wales is this day come to Whitehall.

December 11th 1688

I have not written much of news to you for a good while because of the Kings proclamation which interdicted it. But this letter brings you such tidings as will amaze you. On Munday about two of the clock in the morning the Queene and prince of Wales went from Whitehall towards the Waterside and presently after followed the Earle of Salisbury through the citty in a Callash with some retinew on Horseback. Att the old Exchange hee was stopped by the citty Traynebands. But hee got out of the Callash and mounted a Led horse and so made his way through and yisterday came news of an engagement betwixt a party of the King's Irish Draggoons and a party of the prince of Orange his Troopes which happened neer Redding in Berks. They

[1] James Cecil, 4th Earl (d. 1693). He was, in fact, imprisoned as a Roman Catholic in 1689.

fought smartly and its sayd a party of the Lord Duglas his Regiment stood by and lookt on without fighting so that the Irish were faine to fly being many of them killed and aboundance woonded and that the cuntry engaged to the Assistance of the princes soldiers. And this morning about two or three of the clock The King and Lord Chancellor left Whitehall By reason whereof the soldiers about this towne became disperited and severall of the Comanders began to declare for the prince of Orange and disarmed and turned out such as were Roman Catholicks out of their companies And the Nobillity and Bishops together with the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen met at Guildhall to consult of some measures for a present setlement of Affaires as also a Common Counsell of the Cittizens. The Comittee of Nobles etc. sent for Col. Skelton[1] the Lieutenant of the Tower and demanded possession of the Tower which hee hath delivered and the Lord Lucas by the said Nobles etc. made super Intendant for the present and Three Regiments of the Militia gon or going in: They have also voted an Address to bee drawn up giving the prince of Orange an accompt of what hath happened and thanks and to invite him speedily to come to London and some Nobles and Bishops named to carry it tomorrow.

All the goods at Whitehall are remooving as fast as they can bee carried out and the mobile are at their old work of pulling down Mass houses and making Bonefires of the matterialls And what mischeef they will doe of this kind this night God knows.

December 15th 1688

Its late at night and wee being in great hurleburly I only send the Gazetts with your mercury. Wee heare the King

[1] Bevil Skelton (fl. 1661–1692), a faithful adherent of James II. As envoy in Holland he had warned James II of William's plans. He went into exile with his master.

is at Rochester and wilbe at Whitehall tomorrow and the prince of Orange is at Windsor. The Lord Mayor when the Lord Chancellor was taken and brought before him fell into a strange epeleptick fitt and scarce yet recovered.

December 29th 1688

(*This letter is not in Mr. Lapthorne's hand and is unaddressed further than 'London' and has no signature.*)

On Thursday night last all the messengers were sent for and orders given them to summon all the Lords Spirituall and temporall in and about the city to attend ye Prince at St. James yesterday at 11 o'clocke and accordingly they did attend and his highnesse told them he gave them his hearty thanks for the confidence they had reposed in him and assured them he would use his utmost endeavor to answer their desire untill the 22nd day of January next. that he would take Ireland into his especiall care and immediate protection and take all the effectuall wayes possible to deliver it from the feare they and their friends here lay under and in all things that related to the religion laws and liberties of England would with the hazard of his life and all that was deare to him prosecute. What God had hitherto so prospered not doubting but the same God would assist him in the protection and defence of all the true professions of Christianity throughout all places where persecution and oppression reigned etc. This caused a universall rejoicing and at one a clocke, the usuall hower, all the guns at the tower were discharged. At 7 a'clocke the members of the Commons Aldermen and common councill of London, as the Prince desired, met in the house of commons where a message came from the Prince to desire them to come to St. Jameses and receive his answer which was delivered and accordingly they went. The Prince thankt them heartily for the confidence they had

reposed in him the speaker and, Mr. Powle[1] being not neer, having a paper in his hand gave it to the Earl of Worcester[2] desireing him to read it which he did and it was of the same tendency as the before-mentioned said to the Lords – yesterday the master of a small vessell that carried off the King came up to St. Jameses and declared he had landed the King on Munday last at Bolenge in France – this day is advice from Scotland that the Earl of Perth[3] Lord Chancellor and his Countesse another papist Lady haveing concealed themselves at Kirkcaldie were discovered and watched by one Oswald a skipper who finding they were got on board a small vessell comanded by one Alexander Tale bound for france put off to sea with a full crew seized the said vessell tooke out the Earl Countesse and Lady and brought them prisoners to Edinburgh – Last night the Earl of Dover[4] was seized, being in obscurity, by 2 of his owne servants but whilst the one went for a constable, the other let him escape – The Dutch fleet are still at Plymouth, the wind easterly. The Mary of Pettinwem a Scotch vessell is come into Plymouth from St. Maloes in france the Master sayss 2 English ships a quicke and a dogger[5] are stopt there and that himselfe escaped by being by a rope let downe over the towne wall and soe got on board – our embargo here continues and hath been already about 14 dayes – all persons that move towards the sea coast not knowne are seized and comitted

[1] Henry Powle (1630–1692), Master of the Rolls and Speaker of the Convention Parliament.

[2] Son of Henry Somerset, 1st Duke of Beaufort (1629–1700).

[3] James Drummond, 4th Earl and 1st titular Duke of Perth (1648–1716). He was Lord Chancellor in 1684, and subsequent to this capture was imprisoned in Sterling Castle.

[4] Henry Jermyn, 1st Baron Dover (1636–1708). At the Revolution he was entrusted with the Prince of Wales.

[5] A two-masted bluff-bowed Dutch fishing-boat.

untill it appeare they are neither Jesuits priests nor state criminalls – The Archbishop of Glascow the Lord Newbotle and diverse of the Scotch nobility are lately come hither and this day came in the viscount Tarbett[1] the Earl of Sutherland.[2] George Mackenzie and others are on the road from Edinburgh and its said intend in a body to wait upon the Prince but will first attend and consult the Lord Steirs[3] late Lord president of the session who came over with the Prince and together with Dr. Burnet[4] who have a great share of his Highnesses favour – orders are already given out for payment of 6 months sallary to all his Majesties Domestique servants from the highest to the lowest and its said all the forces wilbe paid unto the first of January and that then some of the new raised forces shall be disbanded or sent over to the confederates – it is most certaine that the Emperor hath declared war against france and comanded their Ambassador out of the Empire – The States[5] Comissioners to congratulate the Prince upon his successe arrived here yesterday – The Jesuits in Newgate are to be removed to the Tower and this night preparations were there made for the reception of the Earls of Salisbury and Peterborough and Sir Edward Hales Quondam Lieutenant – There will be a warr with france – Mr. Okes the minister dyed in the pulpit suddenly last Lords day – There is a mighty court at St. Jameses.

An Italian preist is run away with a box of the Queenes jewells he was entrusted with. The Lord Chancellor a close prisoner –

[1] George Mackenzie, 1st Viscount Tarbat and 1st Earl of Cromarty (1630–1714).

[2] John Gordon, 16th Earl of Sutherland (1660?–1733).

[3] Sir James Dalrymple, 1st Viscount Stair (1619–1695), took refuge at Leyden in 1682. Crossed to England with William of Orange. Responsible for Massacre of Glencoe 1692.

[4] Gilbert Burnet (1643–1715). He was made Bishop of Salisbury in 1689.

[5] The States General of the United Provinces of the Netherlands.

January 1st 1688(9)

The Bishop of Bristoll the Earl of Radnor and diverse Cornish gents are gone for Cornwall to be present at the election there – 'Tis ordered that the popish chappell at St. Jameses be for the use of the French protestants and Marshall Schombaigh[1] – the Prince hath restored the Earl of Oxford to his old regiment and the Earl of Shrewsbury and the Lord Lumbley to theirs and the Lord Wiltshire is to have another regiment of the Kings forces – yesterday a barge with a strong guard was sent from the Tower downe to Gravesend for the prisoners the E. of Salisbury E. of Peterborough Sir Edward Hales and Chas. Hales Esq., his brother, Mr. Baron Jenner Mr. Grayham, Mr. Burton and Mr. Obediah Walker[2] the late popish Master of the University Colledge in Oxford who are all to be brought prisoners to the Tower – Some in towne who came from Calis say they saw there the Bishop of Chester and Lord Cheife justice Herbert with some others who lately left London – The Lord Chancellor[3] is close confind at one Mr. Bulls a warders but allowed pen, inke and paper which he hath much used – The Tower Church was very full on Sunday in expectation to see him but he came not out – The mobile[4] in Norfolke and Suffolke have comitted very notorious ryotts att Norwich many have been taken and whipt and others yet in custody will be proceeded against at the Assizes – Att the Lord Daveis at Cheaveley neer newmarket they have done incredible mischeife not only to the rich furniture but to the

[1] Frederick Herman Schomberg, Duke of Schomberg (1615–1690). Killed at the Battle of the Boyne.

[2] Obadiah Walker (1616–1699), an Oxford Romanist, became Master of University College in 1676. He was a prisoner in the Tower until January 1690.

[3] Lord Jeffreys.

[4] Mob.

park pales, dear etc. – The Prince hath put forth a declaration authorizeing all sheriffes justices all civill magistrates and officers in the revenue etc., who are not papists, and were in execution of their offices the 1st December to continue act and proceed untill the 22nd instant in their forme and methode – Scotch lawyers say that when their Lord Chancellor was taken the Councill ordered the Earl of Marr to see him and the rest taken with him safe in the Castle of Stirling – The Councill have also made an order to disarme papists – But the Duke of Gourdon[1] Governour of Edinburgh Castle still keeps the same which tis thought he will surrender in a few dayes – On Sabbath day last the Bishop of St. Asaph[2] preacht before the Prince after which his Highnesse received the sacrament from the Bishop of London with an exemplary devotion – The Prince hath sent for the custome house bookes and caused them to be inspected and all officers are ordered 6 months sallary – from Portsmouth they write the Lord Dartmouth[3] is still there with the fleet and by his order the yatch was searcht where they found a priest belonging to the Lady Scot who was brought ashoare and comitted – The Prince hath appointed horse and foot for Ireland but what Regiments or generalls I have not yet learned but wil be sent with all possible speed The Lord Delameere is gone downe to regulate the regiment, late Major generall Wardens and others are appointed to doe the same in other regiments who will be all paid off before any alterations be made. Yesterday the Middle temple society attended the Prince to congratulate

[1] George Gordon, 1st Duke (1643–1716), Captain of Edinburgh Castle 1686.

[2] William Lloyd (1627–1717). Subsequently Bishop of Lichfield, Coventry, and Worcester. He was one of the Seven Bishops.

[3] George Legge, 1st Baron (1648–1691), Admiral and Commander-in-Chief. He was committed to the Tower in 1691.

his coming over – The circular letters are printed and last night subscribed by his Highnesse and messengers dispatched with them to all parts of the Kingdome – Just now came advice that Sir Nicholas Butler and some others in 2 skiffs gott off after the pacquett boate for Callis and was taken. This evening tide the persons aforementioned, viz: the Earl of Salisbury, etc., were brought to the Tower and 9 Jesuits to Newgate.

January 26th 1688(9)

The Commons met this day and called over the house and I am told the number was 415. Munday is the grand day for setling the Government. There was never a news book saving the Gazet that came out today else I would have sent it. That Lord Hallifax was chosen Chaireman in the Lords House and Mr. Powle in the Commons can bee no news now. The begining was serene and their actions unanimous, God grant it may so continew. They are making Inquisition after the death of the Earle of Essex.[1] some say this night that the princess of Orange is landed at Harwich but doubtfull. Mr. Brent is taken and in custody and severall comitted to Newgate on the accompt of the busines of the Eerle of Essex. There was yisterday a motion in the house of Lords for the bayling of the Lord Peterborough and Salisbury but carried in the negative.

February 9th 1688(9)

Wee as you in the Cuntry constantly wayt for that act which precedes the setling of the Government and wee hope its now neer a Crisis. The Lords have concurred with the

[1] Arthur Capel, 1st Earl of Essex (1631–1683), had been sent to the Tower in connexion with Monmouth's plots in 1683. In July, 1683, he was found there with his throat cut. It was probably suicide, but rumours of assassination, by order of the Court, had been prevalent.

Commons and this day voted the crowning of prince and princess but the Administration to bee solely in the prince during life and its expected there wilbe a proclamation to that purpose Munday next. The Comons sent up yisterday the Grievances of the Nation a coppy whereof you have inclosed and its supposed these wilbe easily consented to. its sayd the Lords voted a Regulation in some points as to their own prerogatives viz: that in case of Tryalls per pares it may not bee by a Jury of 13 as then they are in a worser condition than Commoners for the King may call them out as hee pleases, but the tryall to bee by the whole house.

March 9th 1688(9)

The King and Queene being proclaimed at Bongey a Market Towne in Suffolke on Thursday ult. being market day, at which solemnity great joy being expressed, on the next morning being Fryday a fire broke out and consumed all the towne but one house – And its sayd that immediately before the fire a gun was heard to goe off and then the fire broke out at 4 distinct quarters of the towne at once. it seemes the towne was of some bignes for they say there were two churches in it.

It is reported that some of the Church clergy in the west have bin somewhat rude in their Language and behavior which is taken notice of here and if not reformed may contribute to the damage of the Hirarchy. But wee hope better things in Devonshire.

June 29th 1689

Wee have no certaine news yet of Col. Kirks landing in London Derry. Wee heare that a considerable number of the King of France his soldiers have deserted him. There came into the River of Thames this weeke some Dutch ships which brought over about 3000 soldiers Swedes and

others for auxillaries. This day came out a proclamation against Sir — Blaire and doctor Grey who were some of those that were taken with King James's declaration and escaped and £100 given for seizing them. The Commons have sent up their Impeachments against them to the Lords in order to their Tryalls. Wee heare the King intends speedily for Cheshire.

The Lords have agreed to the Bill for taking away the Marches of Wales.

August 6th 1689

I have inclosed the Gazett which wilbe very welcombe to you bringing the Releefe of London Derry and killing of Dundee[1] though as wee are informed the later with a great slaughter of our men.

(*Letter undated but marked as received in one of the boxes of books* 13 *August* 1689.)

I hope these will meet you safe come home from the Assizes. I am at present put on some publique Imployment by some that are in authority. How that Imployment will suite with mee or how capable I shall be of going through it, haveing but just entered into an Essay, I know not but by reason of it I shall not have so much tyme at my own disposall as formerly which will render me the less capiable to doe you that service for the future which you may expect from mee. But Sir I should deale unkindly with you upon so short a notice to goe off and not recomend another to serve you in my roome. And therefore, if you shall think fitt, doe propose unto you one Mr. Bagford[2] of whom I have had

[1] John Graham of Claverhouse (1649?–1689), 1st Viscount Dundee. He defeated Mackay at the Battle of Killiecrankie but was himself killed.

[2] What was the outcome of this letter does not appear, but Mr. Lapthorne continued his weekly letter. An early notice of John Bagford, the bookseller and antiquarian, who died at Islington in 1716 and was buried at the Charter-

much experience and think him very fitt to bee Imployed by you – hee was a tradesman butt his Genius has run much in collecting books and of late yeares has bin assisting to Auctions and hath bin Imployed by Mr. Powle, Master of the Rolls and Speaker of parliament, to collect books for him. Hee is a man that will expect no great matters from you. what you allow mee, I know will content him. I have proposed it to him, if you shall think fit, and hee thankfully imbrasseth it, if you approve of it and write a Letter to Introduce him I will deliver it and hee shall answer it. As to what concerns the transactions already comitted to my care and its account if you write to mee I will perfect. I shall be glad in any particular affaire to serve you – my trust, in what I am concerned, is from the lords Comissioners of the Great seale. I remember you put mee in a busines once which though in itselfe easy and I attempted with much earnestnes to effect yet could not bee successfull but if any thing againe may occur of that or the like nature either for your selfe or freinds I hope I am in a better capacity now of serving you. I shall continew my respects in a Letter now and then as anything offers worth your notice.

August 24th 1689

Wee have good news, thanks bee to God, as to our affaires in Ireland and Scotland and its supposed that Ireland hath received its death woond in order to its reduction. it is reported that the Pope is dead and its also this morning our news that the King hath received an express which gives an accompt of a fight 'twixt Count Waldock[1] and Flanders,

house. His library and collection of antiquities were purchased by the Earl of Oxford. He was by origin a shoemaker. He formed a collection of broadsides known as the 'Bagford Ballads.'

[1] Prince George Frederic de Waldeck (1620–1692). In his youth in the Dutch Service. Subsequently fought for the Emperor against the French and

wing against wing and that Count Waldock put the other to flight and in the pursuit killed and tooke prisners two thousand and tooke all their Baggage.

October 26th 1689

Tuesday next being the Anniversary for our Mayor will this yeare bee extraordinary, the King and Queene, both houses of parliament, privy counsell, cum multis alia dyning there and great preparations making in order to their reception. Wednesday last being our first day of ye Terme most of the prisoners in the Tower moved for their hab: corp: and since severall of them have bin bayled out at the Kings Bench barr, but amongst the rest came Graham and Burton and Baron Jenner. Burton and Graham were seized in Westminster Hall by the Commons serjeant at arms and are returned to the Tower. Jenner was bayled and afterwards in the citty retaken by the serjeant and now in his custody. these 3 there wilbe Impeachments against them as also in the house of Lords of High Treason against Lords Peterborough and Salisbury.

October 28th 1689

I am just now come home and expect the penny post[1] to call it being neer the tyme of the night hee goes about and therefore haste what I have to write. I made inquiry after the price of hops[2] at Sturbridge and they say the price of the

the Turks, commanding the Franconian troops at the Siege of Vienna 1683. Again took service with the States General. Lapthorne refers to his victory over Marshal d'Humieres at Walcourt. He was defeated in 1690 (see letter of 28 June, 1690) at the Battle of Fleurus by the Marshal de Luxembourg.

[1] A London penny post was established in the reign of Charles II and was a great success.

[2] At one time there was an extensive hopyard at Portledge, and the Brew House is one of the older parts of the house.

best is about 34*s*. or 35*s*. but others are sold some for 30*s*. and as I take it others for 24*s*. or 25*s*. and old hops for 20*s*. but Sir I should think that your standard should bee taken from your own marts or Faires for I suppose you send none here. This day being the Election for our Mayor Sir Thomas Pilkington is continued for the ensewing yeare. there was a fire at Wapping this weeke but begining in a garrett only the tops of 3 houses are spoyled and happening in the day was soone extinguished.

I just now came from Mr. Oliver Cromwell son to the protector Richard and grandson to Oliver. Wee met about comon affaires viz: debtor and creditor wherein I chanced to bee concerned and are to meet againe on Munday.

November 2nd 1689

The Lord Mayors solemnity was very glorious. the King, Queen, house of Lords, Commons and privy Counsell etc. being there and the volunteer London Regiment of horse guarded the King, but this in the Gazett. the honor of Knighthood was conferred on 11 of the long robe Thursday last viz: 5 of the Judges, 5 of the Kings serjeants and the Solicitor-Generall. I heare the Lord Griffin hath surrendered himselfe. This day the Commons have voted 2 millions for supply for the next yeare for army and Navy.

November 9th 1689

I attended at the Auction only the first three books are come on two of which I bought, Maldonat and Sirmondus the last = 3 vol. at £0 7*s*. 0*d*. which is very cheape. I bid up to 14*s*. for Balwey: but I perceived the spectators blushed at the dearenes of the price and so I let it goe as I take it at £0 15*s*. 6*d*. I make no doubt but to have them cheaper at the shops, they were small books – I shall mynde the other as

also the stitcht books. I spoke yisterday to Mr. Watts in pauls churchyard who collects them but hath not yet don it but sayth there are some in the note that are not extant. I will call on him againe some tyme this day. Wee have here a very great snow, it hath snowed 24 howers without any intermission. The parliament have voted a bill for the Jews to pay £100,000 towards the taxes. They voted an Address to the King to seize Col. Ludlow being one of King Charles 1sts Judges but hee is retyred to Holland. they have also voted the forfeiture of Lord Chancellor Jefferys estate and honor. Munday and Tuesday were here celebrated with much solemnity, the one the King's birthday, the other Gunpowder treason the second also in a more then ordinary maner because his Majesty then landed in order to our second Redemption etc.

November 16th 1689

The Towne is at present filled up with various relations of bad news from Ireland as the taking of Sligo by King James and some other damage don to our army there and other mellancholy circumstances but because wee have not the certainty wee hope things are not so bad as they are at present represented.

On Munday last the Lord Preston[1] late secretary of State to King James came to sit in the house of Lords as a peere, but the Lords inquiring into the patent found it bore date in January after ye Abdication and sealed at St. Germans for which hee was refused and also comitted to the Tower.

Also its sayd the Atturny Generall hath orders to draw an Impeachment of High Treason against the Lord Griffith who is also in the Tower.

[1] Richard Graham, Viscount Preston (1648–1695), Jacobite.

November 22nd 1689

This day Wee heare was comitted to the custody of the Serjeant at arms Sir Richd. Haddock,[1] Sir Jo. Parsons, Alderman Sturt, and — Fenn Victuallers of the Navy for their miscarriages therein, it being affirmed that in the bottoms generally of the casks of Beere were found gutts and a sedement like Coprite etc. Wednesday night some rude and Frantick fellow cut off from the Kings picture, hanging in Guildhall, the hand scepter and Crowne and the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen have issued out their order for £500 reward for a discovery etc. Thursday last there was a Tryall at Bar by a Devonshire Jury betwixt Opie and Prideux plaintiffs and one Pilsworth of London deft. touching the estate of John Glass Esq. which veredict was brought in for the plaintiffs though there was a Triall about 3 yeares since by another Jury of the same County which found for the other side.

Although this day sevenight but specially Fryday wee were much alarmed with bad news from Ireland yet thanks bee to God it proves false.

November 30th 1689

The Commons have bin much busied of late about some miscariages in the Navy and army and perticularly as to the army about some gross errors of Comissary Shales and have voted an Address to the King to bee informed who recomended him for that Imployment. the Address is drawne up and delivered but wee know not yet the Kings answer. Mr. Heirn is confirmed Burgess for dartmouth and Mr. Whitron the Mayor for admitting 24 new freemen after the Teste of the writt of election is in custody of the serjeant at arms.

[1] Sir Richard Haddock (1629–1715), Admiral. Commanded Sandwich's flagship at Solebay. Commissioner of Victualling (1683–1690). This was only a temporary setback.

December 15th 1689

Wee are informed that part of the Newbuilding at Hampton Court is fallen down and killed severall of the workmen. The Earle of Torrington hath surrendered his place as first Comissioner in the Court of Admiralty.

December 20th 1689

The Auction is ended and I will now hasten your books to you. I hope you received my last in which I intimated an old imperfect policronicon that would make yours perfect which I hoped to purchass for 6*s*. Yesterday or the day before one Mr. Windham Burgess for Wells in Somersetshire in this parliament is reported to have killed himselfe in his Lodgings with a blundebuss[1] they also say hee was to have bin marryed the day following. On Wednesday night being the Anniversary of the King's coming into London was celebrated with a representation in effigie, by a procession through the citty with a 1000 Lights to Temple bar of the Capitall ministers and officers that governed in the late King James tyme also a triple galloes was carried before them and sate up within Temple bar which was the period of their perambulation and after some ceremonies and discourses the criminalls in effigie were hung up about 11 or 12 altogether and by it a monstrous Bonefire, but the triple tree chanced to crack and fall and then gallows and criminalls with stocks pillorys whipping posts etc. were all thrown into the flames. This being the day they usually choose their common counsell for the Citty a choyce was

[1] Mr. Coffin has endorsed this letter in regard to Mr. Windham's death as follows: 'But a friend one Mr. Lovet told mee that hee was a suitor to Lord Cheife Justice Pollexfens daughter (which Sir ffrancis drake hath lately married) and that hee dispayring to prevayle in his suit sent her a gold watch and writt desiring her to accept of it and to let her know that hee thought hee should bee dead before shee had read it.'

accordingly made very pleasing wee hope to most sober people they being generally men of good characters. Major Wildman and Mr. Bethell are put up, one of them to bee chosen an Alderman, there being a vacancy, but not yet declared which shall stand. Wee heare a party of 1200 of King James men have been lately defeated by 200 of Eniskillen men.

March 8th 1689(90)

I have received the mony on the bill of Exchange for which I returne thanks. I heare no news of the books you want they doe frequently steale from Auctions. Yisterday was the election of Knights of the Shire for Middlesex the Candidates were Lord Comr. Maynard and Mr. Raynton against Mr. Hawtrey and Sir — Gerrard for which there was a short pole but the two last carried it. The Clergie are very busy in most elections and great heats about choosing in most places. The election for London wil be declared Tuesday next. Sir Nicholas Butler is come home and its sayd hath his pardon and promisseth some discovery. Its reported the Lady Ogleby is taken at Chester in mans apparell going with Letters to King James. I was informed that the minister of Crooked lane in London Scilenced by the late act pulled another out of the pulpit the last Lord's day that was appointed to preach which caused much disturbance in the Church.

March 15th 1689(90)

Tuesday last was the election for Knights of the Shire for Essex where appeared in the field a great man of the Church with his ecclesiasticall retinew to oppose Col. Mildmay some of the Nobillity with him also there appeared on the Colonels part the Earl of Oxford Lord Leiftenant and the Earl of Man-

chester with some other great ones. the Tryall of skill was ended that night there being 13 poll books and the Colonel carried it against the ecclesiastic all opposition. The King hath sent for the Lord Mayor and Aldermen lately to whom hee intimated his present want of mony and wished them on the security of the late Acts of parliament if possible to supply him and they presently summoned a Court of Common Counsell and are endeavouring to answer his Majesty's expectations. The Common Counsell a little before at a meeting made one generous Act which I since saw in print viz: their order for thanks to bee given to the late members that served the citty in parliament for their good service and perticularly for their care about the citty orphans mony etc. Wee have this day news of great concerne if it prove true, viz: that our Fleet that waited on the R of Spaine after they had conducted her out of danger returned and met with the Dutch Fleet and are gone before Breast. The Eve of the last Fast were some idle verses posted on the Lord Shrewsburys office dore and at the Dore of St. James church etc. invented by some frothy head.

March 22nd 1689(90)

Thursday the 20th instant the parliament met and the King sent for the Commons to the house of Lords where Sir Robert Atkins being againe appoynted Speaker of that house hee told the Commons that it was his Majesty's desire they should retyre to their house and choose their Speaker and that the next day the King would meet them againe and intimate his mynde further unto them. they accordingly returning to the house where Mr. Hambden telling them that his Majesty had recomended Sir John Trever to bee their Speaker they accordingly chose him, and the next day presented him to his Majesty and on that day the King made his speech unto them which I have inclosed in these –

they did but litle this day save voting his Majesty thanks for his speech and setling the 2 Grand Comittees of priviledges and elections but yisterday Sir Tho: Mompersons a member meeting Mr. Ogden also a member chosen for some place in dorsetshire in the Court of Request struck Ogden on the head with his cane for writing a reflecting Letter to some of Salisbury, for which place Sir Thomas serves as Burgess – what will become of it wee yet know not. I suppose you heare that Sir William Portman is dead and given most of his estate to Mr. Henry Seymour younger brother to Sir Edward.

April 12th 1690

Coming through St. paul's Churchyard Mr. Kebleby called to mee and gave mee notice of these books lately come fourth, viz: Bishop Overalls Convocation etc. quarto price £o 6*s*. o*d*. and Dr. Burnetts 2nd part of the Theory of the earth fo: price £o 8*s*. o*d*. and the life of Cardinall pole in Latine oct price £o 2*s*. o*d*. I leave it to you whether any of them are for your use. The parliament have passed the Bill for Recognition of the government, but there was canvassing of words about it in the house of Lords in so much that some Lords Spirituall and temporall entered their protestations but the bill the next day being read twice and passed in the house of Commons yisterday the Lords made an order to rayse the protestations out of their Journall. the house of Commons are much taken up about the elections. the Comittee sate till 12 last night about the Knights of the Shire for Hartfordshire and at one Comittee lately appered 400 which is not usuall. Wee have had two ill accedents in this towne this weeke, a young clerk killed at the Castle Taverne in Holborne and the master of the Bell ale house in Woodstreet killed in his own house by his brother in law.

April 26th 1690

I had only a hint of a passage very remarkable just as I was writing my last and because I was not certaine of the truth of it I did then forbeare mentioning it in my Letter but ere these I suppose you have heard of it, viz: that on Satturday last being Easter Eve about 7 at night 2 powder mills with a vast quantity of powder was blown up at Hackney and about some seaven persons killed all French. one of them a minister. the blow was so dismall that it shaked aboundance of houses even some at least 3 or 4 miles distant. my house is two miles at least distant and my bedchamber window was so much shattered that I was forced to have a Glazier to take it down and mend it before I went to bed. Thursday were two notable votes the first was for thanks to the King for setling the Malitia in such hands in the citty of London for the safty of the Church of England, the other was for an oath of Abjuration of King James to bee taken by all that shall beare office in civill millitary or ecclesiasticall affaires each of these were moved by distinct parties in the house.

Having occasion to goe fourth since the above written I was informed that the Commons this day resuming the busnes of Abjuration it was caried by a few voyces in the negative.

May 3rd 1690

The Lords have, as I am informed, don great things in their house lately, viz: Have caused a Bill to bee brought in to revive the subject matter of the Abjuration but to bee taken by way of Declaration without oath by all above 16 yeares old, also voted for an Inspection into the London Militia and to make inquiry into other matters tending to the safty of the nation. Yisterday were brought to towne

from Malden a maritime towne in Essex 7 Ruffians going over to France to carry on some Intregues for King James and being at sea were frighted back into Malden by one of our men of warr on sight of whom they threw a great many papers overboard but some others are found about them that discover their designe. I suppose they have bin examined or wilbe examined this day and then wee shall know more. Wee have had much discourse as if some great ones at Court did intend to retyre from busines but doe not heare of a certainty any yet have don it.

This being our sessions weeke one Crowne, that was taken a while since with Letters and papers going to King James, I heare is to be tryed this afternoone by speciall commission.

May 10th 1690

I suppose its no news to you that the house of Commons hath passed a Bill for the dissolution of the present Government of the Citty of London in which is a day in this month prefixed for the choosing of a new Mayor, Sherriffs, Comon Counsell and other officers and the Bill sent up to the house of Lords and yisterday the Comon Counsell sate and I heare the Lord Mayor and some others carried this day their Petition agreed on yisterday in Counsell to the Lords house to be heard before the passing of the Bill which they received and told them they must first read the Bill and after would consider of the petition. The Regency during absence wilbe absolutely in the Queene. Wee have news of a great victory against the Highlanders in Scotland. there was lately a suddaine rumour of the blowing up the ship the Royall Sovaraigne and all the men, viz: 1100. but thanks bee to God it proves false. there was some danger attended her by reason of the workmens shavings catching fire in some part of her but occasioned litle damage.

May 17th 1690

His Majesty is making all possible speed for Ireland. the House of Commons have passed the £500 bill against the non-Takers of the Test in office etc. and the lords have passed the Bill for the dissolution of the present government in London and for electing new officers etc. and are now making Inquiry into the Militia of that citty. The Commons had lately information from one Dodsworth a Roman Catholic of a plott designed by the Roman Catholic and others of the County of Lancashire against the Government and that they had listed men by virtue of King James' comissions in order thereunto and a gent informed the Commons that something of the like nature had happened in Worstershire both which was by the Commons recomended to the Lord Cheefe Justice of the Kings Bench to examine etc. there was a rumour that more powder mills were blown up Sunday last neer Waltham Abbey in Essex and 5 persons killed but whether true or not is not certainly knowne.

May 24th 1690

Yisterday the King passed the Act of Indemnity and wished the Parliament to adjourne to the 7th of July which accordingly they did. all hee sayd then was that the season for his going to Ireland was at hand and gave them thanks and told them though the day were 7 July yet hee thought hee should not give them the trouble of sitting till Winter. there is about 31 excepted in the Act. The Act being passed for the dissolution of the Government of London on Munday next they chuse their Mayor and afterwards their other officers where and when I feare there wilbe great heats. There was lately a poor woman a Laborers wife neer us delivered of 4 children at a birth. 3 lived to

bee baptized named Faith, Hope, and Charity which being presented to the view of the Queene she gave the parents tenn guinnies.

May 31st 1690

Munday last according to the late Act being the Election for Mayor and Sherriffs I make no doubt but you have heard that the Election went for the Continuance of the present Mayor Pilkington for the remaynder of this yeare and for the yeare ensewing, at which one sort of people are despiratly disquieted in so much that there was this day a motion made at the King's bench bar by Aldermen Raymond and Prichard for a Mandamus for the Mayor's place which is alwayes of course granted returnable in Michaelmas terme: so that the present Mayor is quiet till then: the Sherriffs are Sir Francis Child[1] and Sir — Clark of the same temper with the Mayor – Sir Peter Rich was chosen Chamberline. His Majesty begins his journey towards Ireland Wednesday next and that day dynes at Mr Henry Guy's house in Hartfordshire and lyes at Northampton that night: it is generally reported that Sir Jo: Trevor[2] is to bee made one of the Lords Comissioners. of the Great Seale in Loco Lord Comr. Maynard.[3] Also its sayd the Lord

[1] Sir Francis Child (1642–1713), who gave his name to the banking, pawnbroking, and goldsmith's business carried on at the sign of the Marygold, 1 Fleet Street. He was Lord Mayor 1698–9 and M.P. for City of London. Ancestor to the present Lord Jersey.

[2] Sir John Trevor (1637–1717): Judge, Speaker of the House of Commons and Master of the Rolls. He remained faithful to James II and was displaced 1688. Reinstated 1693, but deprived of Speakership in 1695 for taking bribes.

[3] Sir John Maynard (1602–1690), Judge. Appeared for the Crown in most of the popish plot trials of Restoration. He left such an obscure will that a private Act of Parliament had to be passed in 1694 to explain it.

Devonshire[1] wilbe the principall minister of State to manage the Affaires under the Queene in absentia Regis.

June 8th 1690

Since my last Sir Jo: Trevor is made first Lord Comissior. of the Great Seale in the place of Serjeant Maynard and Sir Antony Keck[2] resigning at the same tyme Serjeant Hutchings[3] is also put in so the three are Sir J: Trevor, Serjeant Rawlinson[4] and Serjeant Hutchings. They were desirous to continew Sir Antony Keck in, and as I heare would have put him in first Comissior. but hee desired to bee excused: a great act of selfe denyall in him but his relations will suffer by it. Its sayd the King lyes this night at Col. Whitleys neer High Lake.

Mr. Ferguson[5] Thursday last was seized and in the messengers hands for suspicion of High Treason but hath his Hab. Corp and its supposed wilbe bayled or discharged before night. And this being our sessions week one Crowne that was Indicted last sessions for bringing seditious papers and comissions from King James some of them found in a key it was then put off to bee tryed this sessions and yisterday hee received a faire Tryall and the Jury were all for finding him guilty but one man who indeed is a man of good quallity and understanding and freind to the present goverment but was not cleerly convinced as to this poynt so that the Jury were together all night and for ought I know till now, it being 4 post merid, I wish wee had had some

[1] William Cavendish (1640–1707), the builder of Chatsworth. At this time 4th Earl of Devonshire, created Duke in 1694.

[2] Sir Anthony Keck (1630–1695).

[3] Sir George Hutchins (d. 1705).

[4] Sir William Rawlinson (1640–1703).

[5] Probably Robert Ferguson, 'The Plotter' (d. 1714). One of Rye House plotters. Joined Monmouth and then William of Orange, and being dissatisfied turned Jacobite.

such in our late King James time when the state bloodhounds were pursuing their prey. Wednesday night 2 houses and a warehouse were burnt down at pickle Herring staires in Southwork. in the warehouse was goods to the value of £4000. it was supposed to bee don by Treachery and some were seized and in custody about it.

Mr. Ferguson is bayled and Mr. Crowne is by the Jury brought in guilty but before Judgment their prisoner hath obteyned to bee heard by Counsell on some poynts Thursday next.

June 14th 1690

The King went on board on Wednesday and wee hope is now safe in Ireland. Its generally reported that Admiral Killegrews[1] squadron met with a squadron of French in the straights and hath beaten them to our great advantage.

Crone that was tryed is condemned and sentenced to bee executed on Wednesday next. Yisterday was the generall execution day and one criminall[2] hanged at Newgate for killing his keeper. 7 others were carryed in carts to Tyburne but a Repreeve came and brought them all back alive. Mr. Ferguson is bayled out and Gadbury[3] the Astrologer seized for dispersing King James Declarations and what is remarkable its sayd Mr. Partridge in his last yeares Almanack hath prognosticated his fate this yeare.

June 21st 1690

That his Majesty is safely arrived in Ireland the Gazet will informe you as also of the Duke of Savoy's joyning

[1] Henry Killigrew (d. 1712).

[2] Tom Kelsey, a hero of the Newgate Calendar. Although only 20 years of age when executed he had a long career of crime behind him. On one occasion he plundered the tent of William of Orange in Flanders.

[3] John Gadbury (1627–1704). A famous astrologer. This was a false accusation.

with our Confederacy against the French King which is a stupendious providence considering how it is tymed. upon the scrutiny about the choyce of the chamberlaine of London they have found that Sir P. Rich had the place by surprise so that the old Chamberline Mr. Robinson is sworne and reinstated into that place. Crone that was to bee executed for High Treason yisterday was repreeved till Wednesday next. its sayd that Thursday night hee sent 2 or 3 sheets of paper written to the privy Counsell which induced them to send the Repreeve. but 3 of the 7 malefactors brought from the Gallows that day sevenight were yisterday carried thither againe and executed. its sayd for great rudenes and insulent carriage in the prison since the Repreeve.

June 28th 1690

Various and stupendious have Gods providences bin to us both at sea and land in our late conduct of affaires. Wee expect howerly to heare the two Fleets are engaged. they Anchor about Compton Bay by the Isle of Wight within 2 leagues of each other as is reported and that it is impossible they can gett off but wee must bee at them. Many have been taken and more are still taking up about the late plott. Its sayd Crone that was reprieved hath made great discoveries but would doe nothing till hee understood Gadbury the Astrologer, who is also in custody, had broken the ice. Its also sayd Comissary Shales who is also in custody hath made discovery. Sir Richard Haddock[1] was sent down some dayes since to our Navy about some extraordinary concerne and I was told this day that one Captaine Bourne an old Olivarian sea comander and a man of great skill and experience was sent for by the Counsell in order to bee sent to the Fleet. Its sayd our Fleet is in a very good condition and

[1] Sir Richard Haddock (1629–1715). Admiral and Joint Commander-in-Chief 1690.

things succeed well in Ireland and our Queene manages affaires excellently well here and hath very much the Applause of her subjects so that I hope God, notwithstanding the malice of our enimies, hath still a blessing in store for the nation.

* * * * *

Since the writing of the abovementioned I heare ill news that the Dutch army commanded by Count Walduck are routed by the French.[1]

July 5th 1690

I know you expect great matters as to the Engagement of the two Fleets but the account thereof is as mysterious and uncertaine here with us as with you – its true wee have dayly various relations but those much repugnant and contradictary. But by all I can learne wee have little reason to boast of our success.[2] I hope when the two Lords returne that are gon thither as Comissioners to make an Inspection into things wee shall have a better accompt of what hath passed. The poor Dutch fought well and have been great sufferers the Lord reward them and make up their breaches. But wee have good news from other parts if true, King William is very successfull in Ireland and goes on vigorously towards Dublin. Ye Irish everywhere retyring before him And wagers 5 to one have bin this day layd that King William is this day in possession of Dublin. Also that the Duke of Savoy[3] hath beaten the French army there and taken Monsr. Cattenett the Generall prisoner. Also that a peace[4]

[1] At the Battle of Fleurus.

[2] The Battle of Beachy Head.

[3] Victor Amadeus II, cousin of Prince Eugene, his opponent was Nicholas Catinat Maréchal de France.

[4] This was not correct; in 1684 the Emperor had signed the Holy Treaty between Austria, Poland, and Venice against the Turks and remained at war until the Treaty of Carlowitz 1699.

for 20 years is concluded between the Emperor and the Turk and there hath been a flying report that the Lord Chief Justice Herbert[1] was come over and seized in Kent and comitted there to prison.

July 13th 1690

I doe not heare Mr. Northmore[2] is yet come to towne so that if Mr. Palmer wait on you at the Assizes you had best cause Mr. Northmore to come to you to see the mony paid your selfe. The Earle of Torrington[3] was comitted to the Tower Thursday last and on the same day the Lord Griffin and the day before Sir Bernard Howard unckle to the Duke of Norfolk. King James hath acquitted Ireland and most of the towns if not all are quietly delivered up to King William. The Lord Mayor's Court of Aldermen Common Counsell and Leiftenancy of London have mett and consulted about measures of preservation and defence and they have acquainted the Queen that they will not only take care of the militia but will raise a considerable number of soldiers in pay for her Majesty's service. there was some talke this morning as if some French were landed at Lyme in Dorsetshire but not creditted. the people are here very cheerfull and unanimous for the keeping out the French and popery and the Jacobites themselves at this time very mute. There is a booke come out *6d.* price in which is contemned the memoriall delivered to the French King on the behalfe of the

[1] Sir Edward Herbert (1648–1698). Gave judgment in Godden *v.* Hales (the dispensing case) in 1686. He followed James II into exile.

[2] Mr. Northmore was Under-Sheriff of Devon in 1685 when Richard Coffin was High Sheriff. He was also Mr. Coffin's own attorney, and many of his letters are preserved at Portledge. He subsequently became M.P. for Okehampton.

[3] Arthur Herbert Earl of Torrington (1647–1716). Admiral of Fleet at Battle of Beachy Head. He was court-martialled for 'hanging back' at that battle and though acquitted was not employed again.

English to invite him hither and their reasons – Offenders will soone bee brought to condigne punishment.

July 19th 1690

Altho wee are making all preparations imaginable both by sea and land to oppose the French and popery yet by what Letters come from the cuntry I conceive wee are not in so great a Hurry of Affaires as you in your parts are. Though wee expect the French landing yet the people are under no consternitions of mynde but very cheerfull and unanimously bent vigorously to keep out the French and the pope and I hope they are of the same minde throughout the Kingdom. They have agreed in the Citty to supply her Majesty with a new raised ayd or Auxillaryes and at first the Leiftenancy had named for Collonells such as the people suspected to bee once creatures of King James' making. And therefore the Lord Mayor Court of Ald. and Comon Counsell advised them to put in others which is don to better content. The Assizes in all Circuits are put off for a month and a proclamation in the press for that purpose And I saw an Irish proclamation of King William's whereby hee hath reduced King James' Copper Crowne and half Crowne peeces each to one penny sterling etc. Mr. Palmer since my last told mee Mr. Northmore is in towne & would goe to him about what was formerly hinted.

July 26th 1690

Wee all here rejoyce at the report of the courage of the Westerne men and their readines to oppose the Invasion of the French and popery two of the greatest enimies that can hurt England. Our militia are also up here and upon duty but its thought that the French notwithstanding their Bravadoes will hardly land this bout. Our Fleet will set out 6 or 7 dayes hence. Its sayd the office of Admirall wilbe

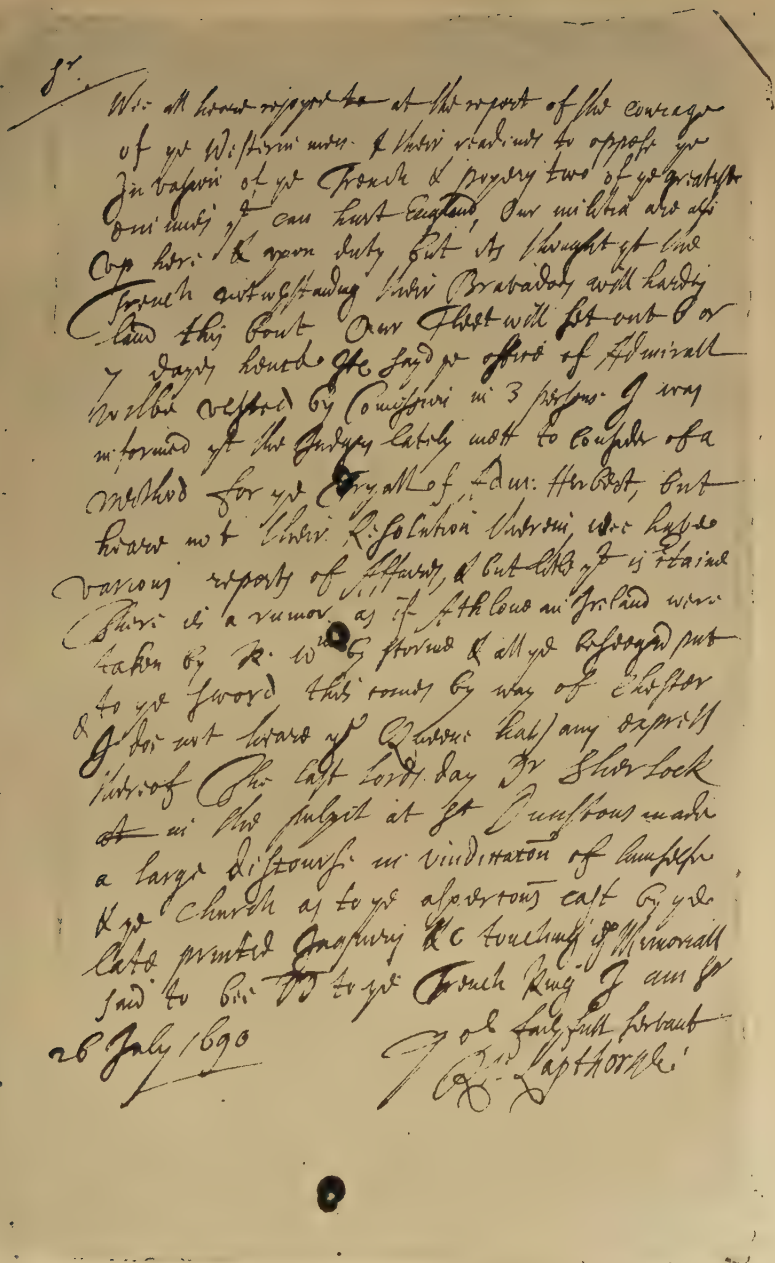
vested by Comission in 3 persons. I was informed that the Judges lately mett to consider of a method for the Tryall of Admiral Herbert but heare not their Resolution therein. Wee have various reports of Affaires and but little that is certaine. There is a rumour as if Athlone in Ireland were taken by King William by storme and all the beseeged put to the sword. This comes by way of Chester and I doe not heare the Queene hath any express thereof. The last lords day Dr. Sherlock[1] in the pulpit at St. Dunstans made a large discourse in vindiccation of himselfe and the Church as to aspertions cast by the late printed Inquiry etc. touching the Memoriall said to bee dedicated to the French King.

August 2nd 1690

Some dayes since there was an express came that the King was coming fourthwith for London, so that Coaches were sent presently towards Chester with other preparations for his reception. But I heard just now – whether true is doubtfull – that news is come that hee hath altered his mynd and will stay 10 dayes longer, viz: till Lymerick is taken or surrendered and is gon against it in person. The Queen manageth Affaires excellently well and was yisterday at Black Heath with the Princess of Denmark[2] to view her forces in pay there encamped. its sayd that the tryall of Admirall Herbert is put off till the Kings returne and just now I heard that the King of France is much displeased with the conduct of his Admirall in so much that hee hath clapt him up in the Basteele. Our Militia in and about this place is in good plight and equipage and our Navy wilbe ready in few dayes to set out.

[1] William Sherlock (1641–1707). At this time Master of the Temple. Made Dean of St. Paul's in 1691.

[2] Anne, later Queen.



FACSIMILE OF LETTER DATED 26 JULY, 1690

To face page 80.]

August 8th 1690

I received yours yisterday for which I returne many thanks. I received one from plymouth at the same tyme and of the same date which mentioned the French Fleet to pass that morning before that harbour but some 5 or 6 leagues off at sea and they supposed they were going home to Brest. I am glad to heare you are in so good posture of defence in the West and I hope this awakening may bee of much advantage for the future to the Nation. The Lord Castlemaine[1] is in the Tower and Mr. Penn haveing surrendred himselfe is in the custody of a messenger. The Earle of Macklesfeild[2] went hence yisterday morning towards the West and is to veiw in what condition those parts are in and to make his report to the Queene. hee tooke with him to beare him company one Mr. Harcliffe a Divine a freind of myne and a man of fine parts whom if you chance to see pray take some notice of him as from mee. There is here great pressing of men for sea the like hath scarce bin knowne. I am tomorrow morning for Windsor where I shall be till Thursday and therefore this is writt Fryday night.

We heare that the Lord Macklesfeild before hee went hence related something touching Col. Bampfeild when with his soldiers at Tingmouth to the Queen and Counsell but of that more hereafter.

August 16th 1690

I came home last night from Windsor. I was there about a weeke and at Eaton it being Election weeke att the Colledge. I gott my son into the Colledge. Dr. Cradock[3] is provost and

[1] Roger Palmer, Earl of Castlemaine (1634–1705), husband of the notorious Barbara. He had been exempted from the Act of Indemnity. He later escaped to the Continent.

[2] Charles Gerard, Earl of Macclesfield (d. 1694).

[3] Zachary Cradock (1633–1695).

Dr. Rhoderick provost of Kings in Cambridge. both present. there was a great Festivall there and I had the honor to Dyne with them in the great Hall where were a great number of Gentry entertayned. The Queen Dowager[1] hath a very slender Court at Windsor no appearance of any gentry almost in either town or Castle. I saw in the Castle the library of the famous Dr. Isaack Vossius[2] who dyed prebend of that place. his Nephew Mr. Vossius gave mee the oppertunity of seeing it. One thing remarkable I canot here omitt, viz: on the Lord's day Dr. Burnett Bishop of Salisbury preached at Winsor church in the afternoone where I was present in the Crowd of a numerous Auditory. and it so happened as the Bishop was in his sermon a pillar of one of the Gallerys by reason of the press sunck and the Gallary cracked which caused greivous shreeks and cryings out that all the church was falling down which put the people into great consternation and horrible confusion but no great hurt don. On Tuesday following wee had much lightning and thunder and I and my son walking in the park in the Evening saw the lightning break out a considerable space before the thunder which seemed to differ from common lightnings for the flash appeared out of the West like a flaming sword waved and it was not only our apprehention but people in the Castle conceived the like. Its sayd that all prisoners of state shallbe set at liberty save 8 persons, viz: Earle of Torrington Earle of Castlemaine, Lord Rosse and 5 more.

August 23rd 1690

Wee lately have received ill news from Ireland: That Colonel Sarcefeild[3] making an excursion with a party of horse

[1] Catherine of Braganza.

[2] Isaac Vossius (1618–1689), a famous scholar born at Leyden. Canon of Windsor (1673–1689). His library of manuscripts went to Leyden in 1710. His correspondence is largely in the Bodleian.

[3] Sarsfield.

from Limerick by surprize seized our Canon and slaine almost 2 troops of our men that guarded the canon, a great many of them being in their bedds. They burnt the carriages and nayled the guns to make them unservicable but understanding our men viz. Capt. Laneire and others coming up, they retyred to Limerick leaving the guns behinde. But then wee have since received also good news, if true, that the Duke of Savoys[1] army have routed and defeated the French and some say Catenate[2] is killed. Its sayd that all our forces in pay saving the Queens guards are speedily to bee shipped for Flanders or some other parts beyond sea.

August 29th 1690

It was reported this morning that there is an express come that our army is in possession of the Irish towne as they call it being the town on the other side the River over against Limerick and that Tuesday last was agreed on for the storming Limerick. I suppose you have heard of a great contest lately in Oxford about the censuring of a booke sayd to bee written some tyme since by Dr. Bury[3] Rector of Exon as being repugnant to the Church Hierarchy etc. and that they doomed it to bee burnt by the Hangman and have suspended the Doctor as to his place. hee is now in London and its supposed hee will by way of Appeale make a vigorous defence for himselfe. the booke is titled the Naked Gospell. I heare the Doctor lodges neer our house.

September 6th 1690

This was our sessions weeke at the Old Bayly where a parson of the Church of England was convicted and fined

[1] Victor Amadeus. [2] Catinat.

[3] Arthur Bury (1624–1713). Theologian. Rector of Exeter College (1666–1689). The Naked Gospel, 1690, was an attempt to set aside dogmatic accretions. It was burnt by Oxford University. See letter of 16 May 1691, and note.

500 marks for writing a scandulous booke in Answer to the Bishop of Salisbury's pastorall Letter. also two Highwaymen were tryed and condemned who after sentence gave the Court very reproachfull language and they bidding the Executioner to tye them up, as the usuall maner is, they struck him to the ground in the face of the Court, and hee endeavouring to doe it a 2nd time they againe did the like. Upon which they were manackled and carryed to Newgate. the Executioner hath eaten many times at my table, his father is living and my frend, and 2nd brother to a family of as good repute as most in Devon; I blush to name him.

Many wagers are here made about the taking of Lymerick but no express comes yet that certainly affirms it. Munday night about 10 of the clock severall gents of quallity some of them young Nobles being at Barthlomew faire they with some women went into St. Bartholomew's Hospitall Cloysters and danced, where, the mobile pressing to bee spectators, the gents being offended discended from words to blows and drawn swords. Some 9 of the Mob: they say are dangerously if not mortally woonded and some of the Nobles carryed before the Magistrates etc.

September 13th 1690

I suppose these will not finde you at home by reason of the Assizes and therefore I contract my lynes only these serve to bring the Gazetts and to tell you that there was great Expressions of joy at the Kings Arrivall by Ringing the Bells, discharging the Great Guns Bonefires and fireworks. And amongst the rest as I am informed the Mobile had gotton the King of France in Effigie and drew him in a chariot and at last placed him so in state by a Bonefire in Coven Garden with an Inscription over his head in Capitall Letters thus – 'Lewis the greatest Tyrant of fourteene' and then comitted him to the flames.

Yisterday being Execution day 6 men were executed and of them the two most notorious Criminalls for Robbery, who behaved themselves insolently when tryed in the presence of the Judges, and as they were in their march to the Gallows called for wyne and drank King James his health and slighted the ordinarys exhortations at the place of execution and bid him and the people goe Home and give obedience and send for King James or else they were Reprobates. By this you may perceive of what race some of his Advocates are.

September 20th 1690

I hope these will meet you safely returned from the Assizes. Wee have but litle of certaine News, save what is in the Gazetts. I was informed that the Captaine of the James Galley did informe Sir Cloudsly Shovell[1] that 40 French men of war were seen at sea going towards Ireland, our Fleet being set out before with 8000 land soldiers and Sir Cloudsly Shovell with his squadron making after, so that if this relation proves true its supposed they must needs fight. There is great museing and enquiry to what parts our Fleet is designed but I can meet with none that can certainly tell. Wee have had no good News lately from Flanders nor from Savoy but wee hope Affaires goe pretty well in Ireland. Wednesday last was the day for our Monthly Fast and the people generally did shut up their shops intending to goe to church but the church dores were shut the Clergy having determined the fast to bee at an end, but it was strictly kept by all the Non-Conformists at their meetings. I was told this morning at a Hopp Merchants shop that the best hops at Stirrbitch faire went for £3 and £3 5*s*. a hundred but in my next I shall inform you more perticularly.

[1] Sir Clowdisley Shovell (1650–1707). Admiral of the Fleet. He was at this time in command of a squadron in the Irish Channel.

September 27th 1690

Wee remayne still in a maze touching the designe of the last Expedition of our Fleet. Much notice and discourse hath lately arisen about Dr. Sherlocks taking the oaths, having kissed the Kings hand and promissed to doe it and his patent for Master of the Temple is preparing – Some say hee urgeth, for one reason of his now taking it, King James leaving Ireland by reason whereof there remaynes no longer tigh on Conscience. The Countesse of Northumberland[1] wife to the Lord Montague is lately dead and Serjeant Maynard reported to bee so, but this day I heare hee is living.

There was the last Lords day at night a horrible murder comitted on the bodyes of two women mistress and servant in Blackfriers but the criminalls not yet fully discovered and also on the last Lords day one Thorpe one of the Sherriffs for the Citty of York hanged himselfe, and a young woman of about 20 yeares of age of tollerable quallity hanged herselfe neer us on Munday last some say love was the cause so that the Devill is busy in citty and cuntry God guard us with his grace. Wee are all by nature equally subject to such kind of rapine.

October 4th 1690

The Parliament adjourned to Munday next And this day came an express of the surrender of Cork on terms discretionary. There is a proclamation for a day of Generall Thanksgiving but I have not yet read it and therefore know not the day. The Earle of Torrington will speedily bee tryed. There hath bin a late detection as its sayd of the Designe and circumstances of the setting up the Prince of

[1] Elizabeth Wriothesley, widow of Josceline last Earl of Northumberland, had married Lord Montagu, later Duke of Montagu, in 1671.

Wales and that the Lord Coote[1] and one Mr. Bucknell a Justice of Peace are to make inquiry into it.

October 11th 1690

The Parliament yisterday had an Estimate of the number of our Forces and computed what the charges of the next yeare wilbe at land and sea and I saw this morning a Minute transcript of the calculation, viz:

Forces

Horse	8,700
Dragoons	3,440
Foot	58,000
Tot.	70,140

Mony voted by the Commons for the land forces	£2,300,000
For the Navy ordinance and building three new 3rd rate shipps and a dock at Plymouth	£1,791,695
To pay off ye debts charged on ye revenue	£800,000
Tot.	£4,891,695
In French livers	58,700,340

Serjeant Maynard is now dead. Wee heare of another earthquake in the West. There is a printed paper just now come out of our taking of Kingsaile.

October 18th 1690

Thursday the Comons voted an Assessment of one hundred thirty seaven thousand six hundred fourty one

[1] Richard Coote (1636–1701), 2nd Baron Coote. He had been created Earl of Bellamont in 1689.

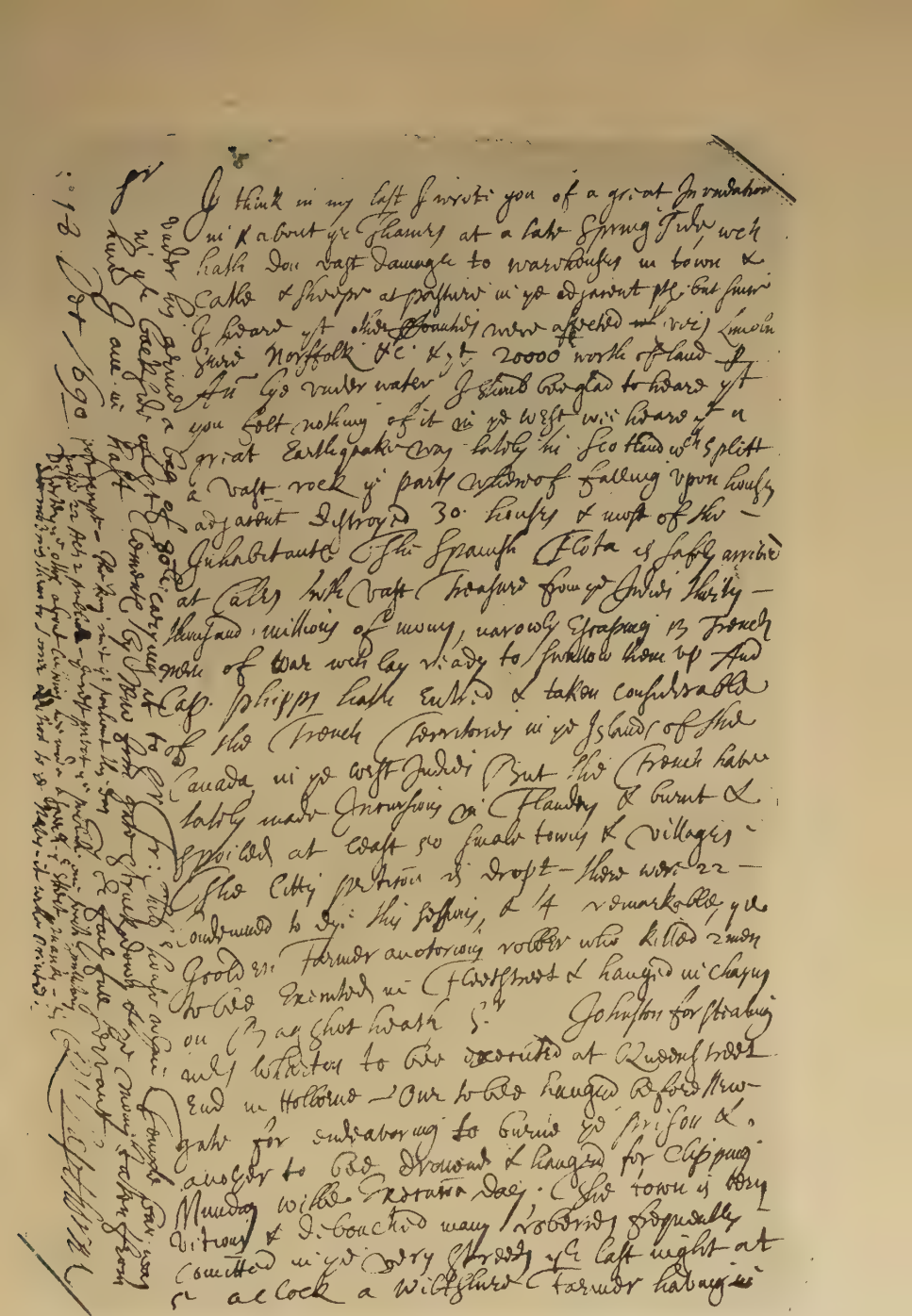
pounds by the moneth upon lands for 12 moneths in order to cary on the supply granted etc. And yisterday they voted a million to bee raysed on the sale of the Rebells lands in Ireland. On Sunday morning broke out a fire neer the Timber Windmill on the Bankside in Southwork which consumed 8 houses and much timber. On Monday a trooper was shot to death in Hide Park for drawing his sword against his officer. There hath bin a discourse of Earthquakes in many places within his Majesties dominions and the Gazett mentions it to bee felt in Dublin and two places in England at the same time and its sayd that severall parts of this towne have bin sensible of these shakings as in Queenestreet and in the Inner Temple etc. Its also sayd that by reason of a great spring tide there hath bin an Inundation at Tilbury and parts neere Gravesend by reason whereof much catle are distroyed in those parts and that two tydes at once observed in the river of Thames one day this weeke. Its sayd the King intends speedily for the Hague.

October 25th 1690

The aspect of affaires have of late looked from abroad somewhat dark, that of the taking of Belgrade[1] may alter much the measures of states in Xtendom. Wee doe not heare that the New fort in Kingsaile is yet taken but there is a place called Castle Ray that is lately taken in Ireland, but with all its sayd that the Duke of Berwick and Col. Sarsfeild are gone with 12,000 men to releive Kingsaile. Wee have had two men of war lately cast away, viz: The dreadnought and a Dutch ship of 50 Guns.

Serjeant Maynard is this day to bee Interred. All the Judges and Serjeants at Law are invited. Excise for Beer

[1] The Emperor Leopold had captured Belgrade from the Turks on September 6th 1688, but on October 8th 1690 the Turkish Commander, the Grand Vizier, retook the city.



FACSIMILE OF LETTER DATED 18 OCTOBER, 1690

To face page 88.]

and ale is to bee doubled and mony brought down to 4 p cent. Aboundance of Clippers this sessions tryed for clipping and many condemned. There was a day or two since a Notorious Highwayman taken in Southwork called the Goulden Farmer[1] when discovered hee went through the streets with his pistolls in his hands on foot and a great while the people looked on but afrayd to touch him till at last some Butchers ventured with some others; and that hee killed one and hath dangerously wounded severall others.

* * * * *

Since ye above written I heare for certaine that an expresse is come that the New Fort of Kingsaile is surrendered on Articles that the Beseeged march out with powder and shot and 3 dayes provission and withall that one of our men of war, viz: the Bridae of 70 guns is cast away neer Lymerick in Ireland.

November 1st 1690

The Kings going to Holland is much talked of at this time, whom if hee goes God preserve. Its sayd the Earle of Rochester[2] goes with him and is faire for some great preferrment. Its reported that one came lately from a considerable part of the Irish Army, viz: 23 Regiments or Companies, I have forgot which, to the King with offer to come in on Articles which the King it seemes declines. I heare the

[1] William Davis the Golden Farmer was executed, as Lapthorne relates later, on December 20th 1690. He was a farmer by occupation, and always paid in gold. A native of Wrexham he moved to Gloucestershire in his youth, and married an innkeeper's daughter by whom he had 18 children. He was a highwayman without detection for 42 years. The Newgate Calendar states that he was arrested in Salisbury Court, Fleet Street, and that he was hanged there on December 20th 1689, which is apparently an error of a year.

[2] Laurence Hyde, 1st Earl of Rochester, second son of Clarendon and therefore uncle of the Queen. He was patron of Dryden.

Earle of Terone[1] is dead in the Tower. An Atturny, an Innkeeper in Kent who went aboard the French Fleet was arraigned this weeke at the Kings bench bar for High Treason and one Mr. Lawton a Cheshire gent was seized for coming from the late King James in France and was bayled yisterday – Also I this day heare that one Mr. Gould a Dorsetshire gent who killed a man at Dorchester about 2 yeares since and was pardond for Manslaughter was indicted againe at the Kings bench bar for that murder – there was lately a difference in a Coffee house neer Grays Inn betwixt the Lord Wemm,[2] Lord Jefferies son, and another gent and both woonded but its said Lord Wem's black bitt a peece of the other gentlemans face off, upon which the gentleman thrust his sword in his back and some say is dead – The world with us is very unruly debauched and profane, aboundance of Robberies comitted and vice very litle checked by those in Authority which makes mee feare God is yet providing greater scourges for the Nation which God grant our humilliation and sincere repentance may divert.

November 8th 1690

Doctor Sherlock hath printed a book of his reasons for his conformity which is much bought up and a peece come out since of Reflections on it. if you will have them I will buy them for you. Wee heare there hath bin an earthquake lately at Wells in Somersetshire. The King designs certainly for the Hague. Some day the later end of this moneth but I

[1] Richard Power, 1st Earl of Tyrone, of the Power family (1630–1690). He had assisted in defence of Cork against Marlborough earlier in the year.

[2] John Jeffreys, 2nd Baron Jeffreys of Wem (1670–1702). Mr. Richard Coffin was High Sheriff of Devon during the Bloody Assize, and therefore had come into contact with his father, the notorious Judge Jeffreys, and was no doubt interested to hear of this incident.

heard this morning that hee will put it off till after Christmas. I was informed that the Earl of Danby and Lord Lansdon have fought on an old quarrell and that the Earle of Danby was wounded but I know not the certainty. I heare Sir Cloudsly Shovell is to marry the Lady Norborough.[1]

November 15th 1690

This weeke the Earle of Torrington was according to his desire at the house of Commons and offred some things and its sayd some Reflections on a great Minister of State in reference to his miscariage at sea but the house not having much regard to what hee then sayd Hee desired that hee might come once more and put his conceptions into writing which the house granted and have ordered Munday next for that purpose. One Mechillicot or such a name the late Governor of Cork being in the Tower of London as a prisoner of War hath made his escape.

The Lord Godolphin is added in the Comission of the Treasury and made First Comissioner. The King is making preparation for his going to the Hague and its sayd it wilbe very suddainly. Cross the Atturney that is arraigned for High Treason for going aboard the French Fleet wilbe tryed at the King's Bench bar the next weeke.

Its sayd there are like to bee suits commenced about Serjeant Maynards will by reason of some intricate expressions therein.

November 22nd 1690

Since my last some things have happened worth your notice, viz: Yisterday was tryed one Cross an Atturny and Innkeeper of Kent for going on board the French Fleet and

[1] Perhaps widow of that Sir John Narborough before referred to, who was an old comrade of Shovells and who had died in 1688 when treasure-hunting at St. Domingo.

holding Intelligence with them and hee was found guilty of High Treason but not yet sentenced to death also this week was tryed Captaine Gould of Dorsetshire for murder for which hee had formerly a pardon but found guilty only of Manslaughter to which his former pardon extends. Also yisterday a Tryall was had by one Mr. Price a gent of Lincolns Inn and one Mr. Neale son to the Groome Porter,[1] who maryed Sir Nic., Gould's widdow and by whom hee had this sonn, for that Neale debauched his wife and caryed her from him and Price hath recovered £1500 damages. Severall women of late have bin taken violently away being Fortunes, as a Coachmaker's widdow in Longacre worth ten thousand pounds by a French man also one Madam Wharton a young Lady worth £1500 per An. by one Mr. Camfeild[2] a son or neerly related to the Earle of Arguile but the Women are both retrived and the Frenchman was taken and out upon Bayle. Its sayd the Earle of Torrington wilbe tryed on Shipboard the later end of the next weeke.

November 29th 1690

The Earle of Torrington is to bee tryed on board the Soveraigne at Chatham the next weeke. Yisterday most of the prisoners that were in the Tower and those out upon bayle were discharged at the Kings bench bar, their Securities as I was informed amounting to 2 millions of mony. Sentence is passed against the person that went aboard the French Fleet to bee hanged drawn and quartered. Wee heare the Duke of Bavaria is dead.

[1] Thomas Neale (d. 1699?), Master of the Royal Mint 1678–1689. Groom Porter to Charles II 1684.

[2] Really Sir John Johnston, whose story is told in the Complete Newgate Calendar (Navarre Society). A Mr. Campbell, brother to the Earl of Argyle, was a party to this romantic venture, and Mr. Lapthorne falls into natural error, for Campbell was the more culpable and got off scot free. Johnston's fate is unfolded in the letters of December 18th and 26th 1690.

Its reported on the Exchange that a preist for begetting the Infanta of Portugall with child is put to death and shee poysoned. Sir Hugh Ackland is High Sherriff of Devon and Mr. Thomas Ford his undersherriff.

December 6th 1690

Munday next wilbe tryed aboard the Kent at Chatham the Earle of Torrington and a warrant is signed for the execution on the same day of Cross that was condemned for going aboard the French Fleet, and, there being a petition delivered to the house of Comons by some Refferens of the Citty of London for a New Lord Mayor and Sherriffs, Munday also is appointed for consideration thereof.

Its a bitter cold season in so much that my Ink doth almost freeze as I write. There is an Imbargo put upon all shipping save such as the King had given leave to goe out before the Parliament made their Address.

December 13th 1690

On Munday last Cross that went aboard the French Fleet was executed at Kent Street end in Southwork. I doe not heare hee made any confession but dyed resolutely. The lord Torrington was tryed on Wednesday and acquitted but I heare this day that hee having not delivered up his Comission by order of King and Council, a superced is sealed and sent to him. The busines about the Lord Mayor etc. of London was Thursday last adjourned for a week as some thinke to loose the petition. There is a passage I had a relation of this morning some thinke remarkable, viz: a poor widdow woman not far from us on Munday last hanged herselfe. It seemes she had in her husband's life time lived in a pretty plentifull condition but being now reduced to poverty its conjectured that was the Basis of this temptation. shee had severall children and 2 lived with her a boy of 9

and a girle of 11 yeares old. The Coroners Inquest examined the Girle but she could say but litle only thus that the day the fact was don there was a strange man in black with her mother and had discourse with her but she knew not what it was but when hee went away She heard her mother say to him 'But what then will become of my poor children' to whom hee Replyed 'take you not care of them they wilbe provided for' and that his voyce was hoarse. This relation I had from a reputable Citizen who being Constable was present and heard the examination. Its a wicked age and what this black man was God knows.

December 18th 1690

I think in my last I wrote you of a great Inundation in and about the Thames at a late Spring Tide which hath don vast damage to warehouses in town and catle and sheepe at pasture in the adjacent parts but since I heare that other Counties were affected, viz: Lincolnshire Norffolk etc. and that £20,000 worth of land per An., lye under water. I should bee glad to heare that you felt nothing of it in the west. wee heare that a great Earthquake was lately in Scotland which splitt a vast rock. the parts whereof falling upon houses adjacent distroyed 30 houses and most of the Inhabitants. The Spanish Flota is safely arrived at Cales[1] with vast Treasure from the Indies thirty thousand millions of mony, narowly escaping 13 French men of war which lay ready to swallow them up. And Capt. Phipps hath entred and taken considerable of the French Territories in the Islands of the Canada[2] in the West Indies. But the French have lately made Incursions in Flanders and burnt and spoiled at least 50 small towns and villages – The Citty petition is dropt. There were 22 condemned to dye this sessions and 4 remarkable, the Goolden Farmer a notorious

[1] Cadiz. [2] Grenada.

robber who killed 2 men to bee executed in Fleet street and hanged in chaynes on Bagshot heath.[1] Sir John Johnston for stealing Mrs. Wharton to bee executed at Queen Street end in Holborne – One to bee hanged before Newgate for endeavouring to burne the prison and another to bee drawne and hanged for clipping. Munday wilbe Execution day – The town is very vitious and debouched. Many roberies frequently comitted in the very streets. the last night at 5 a clock a Wiltshire Farmer having under his arme a bag of £80 carying it to Sir Francis Child's house within Temple Bar was in the backside of St. Clements by New Inn Gate struck down and the mony taken from him.

December 26th 1690

In my last I mentioned something of our last Session at the Old Bayly which was greater than usuall 22 condemned to death of which number 18 were executed last Munday and Tuesday. The notorious offender the Goulden Farmer was executed according to warrant in Fleet Street and his body hangs in chaynes on Bagshot heath but Sir John Johnston that was confederate in the stealing Mrs. Wharton on Tuesday morning last was carryed in a large mourning coach to Tyburne and a Herse following the coach to receive the Corps after execution. hee made a strenuous speech at the Gallows such it seemes that proved so insinuating to the foolish Mob as to draw teares from their eyes insomuch as I was told by some that a litle prompting would almost have prevayled with them for a rescue which seemes credible in regard they afterwards offered violence to Mrs. Whartons lodgings by breaking the windows etc. But the next night about 7 of the clock hee was carryed from Fleet Street in a Herse attended by 30 coaches to St. Giles to bee interred

[1] There is a well-known inn at Bagshot Heath called the 'Golden Farmer.'

and its sayd the Earle of Arguiles coach imediatly followed the Herse. The lord Sydney is made Secretary of State in the roome of the lord Shrewsbury. And the House of Commons yisterday by balleth pitched upon the 7 Comissioners that are to sit to inspect the accounts of the Nation.

January 3rd 1690(1)

The King is hastening to ye Hague and its sayd the parliament is to continew sitting in absentia Regis and the Queene to preside and for that end her parliament Robes are a preparing. On Wednesday last the lord Preston[1] Captaine Aston and Captaine Elliot were seized in a smack a litle below Gravesend going for France and there was taken with them a pacquett of Letters with a peece of Lead affixed that when thrown overboard they might presently sink. they were yisterday examined before the King and Counsell at Kensington and comitted to prison and its sayd the Letters intimate a Confederacy against the Government and that this day severall of the Nobillity are taken into custody. I durst not name them till I am better sattisfyed as to the truth. Its also sayd that the House of Commons intended yisterday to make inquiry into the actions of two great persons but upon intimation of one greater they forbore it.

January 9th 1690(1)

The 3 men taken in the smack, viz.: Lord Preston, Captain Ashton and Ellyot have notice to prepare for their Tryall Fryday next. I heare one Mr. Delavere an eminent merchant is sent to prison for High Treason. they say a great many Topping ones of the Church of England are

[1] Richard Graham, Viscount Preston (1648–1695). He had been arrested and sent to the Tower in 1689 as a Jacobite and subsequently released.

deeply concerned in this Conspiracy and warrants being out against some of them they are not to bee found.

The winde turning the King returned againe last night at White Hall but the first faire winde hee makes another setting out.

Wee have had much robbing and severall murders comitted this Xmas.

January 17th 1690(1)

This day was tryed the Lord Preston at the old Bayly and convicted of High Treason. hee had all faire play Imaginable and 9 Counsell assigned him. the Tryall held 8 or 9 houres though the Evidence very plaine. The owner of the smack and the master proved the contract exactly and Captaine Billop the master of the Kings yatch that seized them the maner of it and taking the letters and instructions which were read in Court: their offer to bribe him to throw the papers overboard or to joyne with them. the papers gave an account of the posture wee stood in here: in what condition our Fortifications: how they should fight us: with the Draught of a Declaration for King James such as Colemans and a key to explaine what was misterious in the letters and papers and Munday morning wilbe tryed Ashton and Ellyot. Dr. Lower dyed this morning at 5 of the clock.

Wee had a notorious murder comitted at Ratcliff Tuesday last and a robbery – an old woman, a child and servant mayd killed by 3 men in the day tyme and the goods taken which consisting in plate and exposed for sale that evening two of the Fellows were discovered and taken.

The King went away yisterday morning for the Hague.

January 20th 1690(1)

Capt. Ashton was tryed yisterday at the old Bayly upon the same plott and the Lord Preston and hee received their

sentence of death as for high treason. the sessions ended last night and Captain Ellyot put off till next Sessions unless tryed in Westminster Hall.

January 24th 1690(1)

I hope by that time these come to your hands you will receive the box mentioned in my last sent by Morris the Exeter carier last Satturday. Wee doe not heare certainly yet of the Kings arrivall at the Hague. The lord Preston is repreived for some time but Capt. Ashton is to bee executed on Wednesday next. Its generally reported that the Lord Preston is penning a confession in order to the further discovery of the plott.

Never was there such beare faced outrages committed in and about London as of late, not a day or night passes but robberies if not murders comitted, in our very streets as well as by breaking into our houses. Thursday night I may say rather Fryday morning at 6 of the clock a gent my neighbour had his house broken open by 6 fellows that came to his bed with vizards holding a pistoll at his breast making him discover his treasure which they tooke from him to a considerable value and many houses in our neighborhood have bin of late robbed and attempted to bee robbed so that wee goe to our bedds in feare either to loose our lives or goods before the morning. 'Tis feared by the wise that some cause of this may bee a defect in the pulpit and Bench, the Lord reforme them if so, but certaine and too visible it is that the multiplicity of Alehouses have caused the multiplicity of theeves and beggars what pitty it is that such nurseries of Debaucheries and seed-platts of poverty should not bee more checked and restreyned then they are; if you are in the Comission of the peace, if you would consult this at your publick meetings and rather suppress some of these pests then grant more it may bee some step to prevent you being

circumvented in the Cuntry with those prodigies wee feele here in our towne. Our last sessions paper came out since the box went off and therefore have sent it inclosed.

January 31st 1690(1)

On Wednesday last Captain Ashton was caryed in a Coach to Tiburne and there only hanged and after his body was caryed back in a Herse to bee interred by his freinds. The discourse about the Lord Preston is various. Some say hee is penning a further discovery, others say otherwise and I heard one say this evening that a warrant was signed for his execution but Quere de hoc. Yisterday was brought to towne a German taken by the waters side with a quilted coat in which as they say were many Letters and papers relating to the government but others say that the papers were not such. I think hee is still in custody and wee shall have better information against my next. I was informed that the father of the young clerk which was executed on Munday last for cutting his masters throat in the Temple dyed since his tryall and that a litle after the only brother or sister, I have forgotten which, was killed by a fall out of a window and that since the execution the mother who came to towne is run distracted, a lamentable catastrophy in a family.

February 7th 1690(1)

Our news letters intimate that the Lord Lansdons son is to bee maried to the Lord Overkirk's daughter. There is discourse of a French prize in which are 500 barrells of Gunpowder brought into Holly-Head. The discourse about the Lord Preston continews still doubtfull whether hee shall live or dye. The proclamation against the Bishop of Ely, Col. Graham and William Penn is not yet out but dayly expected. I think I wrote in my last that the Lord Danby[1]

[1] Sir Thomas Osborne, 1st Earl of Danby (1631–1712).

having supped in the citty and riding home late at night in a Hackny coach In ye Strand there being a scuffle betwixt his Coachman and page and some footpassengers pretending to bee pressmasters, my Lord coming out of his coach drew his sword and the constable and watch coming into the Fray the Lord Danby was knockt down and was after very ill. this busines was lately under examination but what is don in it I yet know not.

Since the writing the proclamation against the 3 persons is come out.

February 14th 1690(1)

This terme hath not afforded much of extraordinary transactions. The Frenchman with his accomplices of which I wrote formerly were tryed in Westminster Hall for very violently taking and mariing a coachmakers widdow very rich, they were found guilty at the tryall and severely sentenced. On Satturday last were seized at the Castle Taverne in paternoster Row a collection of pictures and Relicts and rare peeces of Antiquity belonging to the Lord Melford who is with King James in France. they were appraysed to the value of some thousand pounds. On the 11th inst at 7. of the clock in the morning some theeves broke into the Countess of Kingstons house in Leicester feilds, bound the people rifled the house and carryed away the goods. its sayd in three coaches. Its sayd that Col. Graham mentioned in ye proclamation his lady was lately with the Queen and Counsell and offers on the behalfe of her husband that if hee may bee pardoned life and estate hee will make an ample discovery.

February 21st 1690(1)

You will observe by the Gazett the great and glorious Assembly at the Hague, 30 princes of the Empire besides

many other potentates from other places. The lord Mayor etc. were lately with the Queene to whom she intimated a want for £200,000 and a Common Counsell is called to meet on Tuesday next in order to raise it. Sir Thomas Leigh one of the Comissioners of the Admiralty is dead as also Alderman Edwards. Sir Robert Clayton is chosen president of the Artillary Company and Mr. Goodfellow Town Clark. its sayd that the Bishop of Ely is gotten into France and the master of the ship that carryed him is taken into custody.

February 28th 1690(1)

There is but little news stirring at this time save what you will meet with in the Gazette and in them you will at this tyme finde much matter of Divertisement. Wee heare of 5 French prizes lately brought into Plymouth. The Citty Common Counsell met Tuesday last and voted the loane of the two hundred thousand pounds and most of it is already subscribed for. Its credibly reported His Majesty hath sent an order to put Major Wildman[1] out of his place of chief postmaster and in his roome to place Sir Robert Cotton and — Francklyn. There is much chat of late about a Demoniack or gentlewoman possessed in Duke Street neer Coven Garden. There have bin a Colledge of Theologists to make their observations on her and in order to consult about a way to recover her, viz: Dr. Horneck[2] and others. There will a voyce sometymes blasfiemously speake within her when her lips and teeth are shut and this very audible and sometymes sitting in her chayre she will visibly bee lifted up togeather

[1] Sir John Wildman (1621?–1693). Had been Monmouth's chief agent in England. He escaped to Holland 1685, returned with William. Postmaster-General 1689–1691. He was dismissed on suspicion of Jacobite leanings.

[2] Antony Horneck (1641–1697). A divine of German origin. He was at this time Chaplain to the King.

with her chayre a great distance from the ground no one touching the same that can bee perceived.

I heard this morning that Major Blackmore once a great man in the West who hath bin for some tyme Governor of St. Helena is brought hither prisoner for some offence comitted there in the executing his Government.

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Its sayd Sir Cloudsly Shovell is maryed to the Lady Norborough.

March 7th 1690(1)

There was a generall rumor yisterday in the Afternoone that there had bin an Engagement betweene the two Armies in Ireland and that the Irish were misserably beaten and 3000 killed and Colonel Searsfeild dangerously wounded and that this came in a Letter from Liverpole to a private person, but this morning because it wanted confirmation from White Hall it much looses credit. On the 28th Febr. happened a Fire in Mark Lane at a sugar bakers house which burnt down that house only and went no further. Since my last many persons have bin taken up as suspected at Clubbs amongst others Sir Roger Lestrange which is out on Bayle And its Reported that a present of some wynes was sent to the Duke of Savoy lately but the wynes being suspected the men that brought it were made to drinke of it and its poysonous effects having distroyed them the others were put to death and force sent to the place from whence it came and the Inhabitants put to death and the place possessed etc. Wee have had here much wett weather. I heard Capt. Roope the Governour of Dartmouth read a Letter from a Justice of the Peace in our cuntry that examined the English prisners that came over in a ship to Dartmouth lately from St. Mallows who declared upon oath the misserable condition the French were in in those parts

by reason of the extreamity of the warrs – their grounds lay wast and the Grapes rotted on the Vines because the Inhabitants would not bee at the charge and paines of pressing them: the Cuntry very sickly and could not hold out much longer in the condition they were in.

March 14th 1690(1)

'Tis generally reported that Montz is beseeged by the French which will cause our Kings longer stay and its discoursed as if hee were setting forward in person in order to the breaking up the seege. Wee heare that the King hath made some Dukes at the Hague and that the Earle of Bath was made Duke of Albemarle. Amongst other passages from Ireland wee have this remarkable in its kind that 3 of our soldiers deserters going off were mett with 4 deserters coming from King James to our Army who brought our Deserters back and since are executed. The Deserters that came from the Irish say that there is a great difference arissen in the Army betwixt King James men and the French about some mony that Terconell had to pay the army which hee claymed as his own and so deteigned. There were droven in dead towards the shoare of the Island of Orkny in Scotland 104 Grampusses or small whales worth its sayd thirty thousand pounds.

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Wee have had a weeke of most excellent sommer weather.

March 22nd 1690(1)

The great discourse here for this weeke last past hath bin about the beseeging of Montz. Wee heare nothing now when his Majesty will returne. Our Fleet is in great forwardness to set out betimes. Its sayd that 200 of Col. Fitzpatrick's Regiment coming from Ireland are cast away upon the Coast of Wales. There is much pressing for seamen.

But wee heare of a Fleet of 400 Collyers coming into the River which will wee hope lèssen the price of Coales that have bin excessive deare all this winter.

March 28th 1690(1)

The Earle of Nottingham is returned as I was this morning informed and some of the Clergy with him and that the King was gon towards Mons. The two armies are of that bulk that if they fight the slaughter must bee great. Wee hope that the present rayne will Impede the French in their Attacks. Wee heare from Ireland that there are discontents amongst the Irish about the measures of governing. Terconell Truckles under the King of France but Col. Searsfeild refuses so to doe and each have partyes dependant on them so that wee know not what the result may bee. The Irish used some of our soldiers very barbarously strangling them in their quarters and burying them in the Church with their cloathes on for concealement, for which there is now an Inquisition and its hoped they will have their reward.

April 4th 1691

Mons continews to bee the subject of our discourse. Wee have bin under great apprehensions that its taken by the French but hearing no such news wee now begin to hope the best. Wee have had sevrall strange relations of its being releived but the first proved a trick, the 2nd no sure foundation for its credit. The first was occasioned by one in the habit of a millitary man riding as it were post through the citty and about 6 at night and when before the old Exchange as posting by cryed out Mons was releived and King William in it but this as its supposed was a Contrivance of some Betters that had layd wagers about it in order to some surprize to retrive their Betts and the 2nd comes by way of Plymouth from an Ostend privateer, the

Queen having no Express thereof. I heare that some of the Comissioners of the Excise as Sir Hen. Ashton etc are out and others put in their roome.

April 11*th* 1691

As I remember in my last I gave an accompt of a false flash of lightning – news from plymouth of the removing the seige before Mons of our Kings being in possession but presently after came misserable certaine News of its surrender to the French, which you will finde in the Gazete. Since that other ill news from sea of the miscariage of our shipping there, viz: that 7 of our Bilbow ships are taken by the French and a Guiny ship cast away but as to the later wee heare the gould is saved. and Thursday night last a terrible fire broake out at Whitehall in the stone gallery and hath consumed a great part of that pallace. it begun its sayd in the Dutches of portsmouth's[1] lodgings now preparing for the Duke of Glocester occasioned by a mayds burning off of a single candle from the pound insted of cutting it with a knife and so going hastily away before the flame extinguished caused the eruption of this great conflagration. I have not bin there but I heare the Duke of Glocesters lodgings are burn down as also the lord Devonshires, the lord Overkirks and a great part of the Earle of Monmouths and severall others with the consumption of aboundance of rich goods. Its sayd the King wilbe in town this evening hee having been these two dayes on this side the water veiwing the shipping.

April 18*th* 1691

Our King came home in safty blessed bee god on Munday night last. 8 Dutch men of war conducted him hither

[1] Louise Renée de Keroualle (1649–1734), ancestress of the Dukes of Richmond.

and Eleaven more are come since besides Fireships. its sayd that our Fleet is in a very good condition and ready to put out at sea. Captaine Young, as I take it Captaine of the James Gally hath lately taken two Swedes going for France and hee reports that Admirall de la Vall understanding a squadron of the French fleet were neer Dunkirk hastenned to them with some fire ships and that hee since hearing the guns thereabouts and seeing some lights supposed the Admirall had attacked them and made use of his Fireships. On Thursday last one Mr. Brabant, once an officer in the custom house, and put out lately as hee says by Sir Jo. Lowther[1] one of the Comissioners of the Treasury and a Privy Counseller, came to Sir Jo. Lowther and reproved him for what he had done and held a pistoll to him and told him if hee would not fight with him hee would shoot him upon which Sir John went with him to Hide park and they fought and its sayd Sir John hath received 2 wounds but not mortall but Brabant is fled.

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Yisterday its sayd were many fireballs found in a Frenchmans house in Say-Hoe of which there is much chatt –

April 25th 1691

Wee heare our King is going againe for Holland the next weeke. Wee have store of merchant ships blessed bee God safely arrived lately and our Fleet is in readiness and well composed for defence this summer. The King hath given directions for the Installment of 6 New Bishops in the roome of the Non-Conformist Bishops and 2 old ones translated. Dr. Tillotson is to bee ArchBp of Canterbury, and Dr. Sherlock Dean of St. Pauls. Dr. Patrick is to bee translated to Ely and Ironside to Hereford. Bp Crofts being dead Dr.

[1] Sir John Lowther, 1st Viscount Lonsdale (1655–1700). First Lord of the Treasury at this time.

Fowler is to bee Bp. of Glocester, our minster Dr. Moore of Norwich, Dr. Grove Bp. of Chichester, and Dr. Cumberland Bishop as I take it of Peterborough etc. This weeke was our sessions where were convicted some citticens for giving great sums to have greater repayed if Dublin were in the possession of King William and Queen Mary at a certaine time and fined £200 each and to bee imprisoned till paid. The lord Preston was to have appeared at the sessions to shew cause why execution should not pass according to former sentence but I doe not heare hee was there, but its confidently reported hee will speedily suffer death. Its sayd that a eleaven persons are brought from Harwich going for France with severall treasonable papers.

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The lord Preston was this day at the Old Bayly and had orders to prepare for death and Ellyot was bayled by the Lord Lovelace.[1]

May 2nd 1691

His Majesty went hence yisterday early in the morning for Holland. hee intended to dyne at Coulchester and so for Harwich that night and its verily beleived, there having been a very good winde, that hee is by this tyme safely arrived in Holland. There was a warrant signed for the lord Preston to bee executed on Munday next but a gent of my acquaintance was told this morning by the High Sherriffe that the Execution is put off againe. On Sunday last the lord Sunderland[2] publickly kissed the Kings hand. On Tuesday the Parliament met according to the last Adjournment and were adjourned to the 28 of this moneth at the same day the lord Sunderland tooke his place in the house of Lords

[1] John Lovelace, 3rd Baron (1638?–1693). A supporter of William III.
[2] Robert Spencer, 2nd Earl (1640–1702).

and also the usuall oathes etc. Its sayd that Col. Macay[1] who came hither some tyme since from Scotland is going for Ireland and some great Comanders there are to come hither. It hath bin for some dayes confidently asserted that the Duke of Bavaria hath sent an army of 16,000 men to assist the Duke of Savoy.

May 9th 1691

You will finde by the Gazett that our King soone landed safe in Holland after his departure hence. Its reported that the Lord Preston hath made some detection of persons as well as things. Wee have no new Judge yet in the roome of Judge Ventris. Its sayd that Sir Hen. Hobart is out of his place of master of the horse and my Lord Overkirks son in his roome. It was reported this morning that a 3rd rate Frigot was neer blowing up by treachery in the Downs but it was tymely discovered. the person or persons concerned are not yet openly discovered but they are upon inquiry about it. The Arch Bishop of York[2] is dead and Dr. Sharp of St. Giles is to succeed in that Diocess. Its sayd the Deane of Glocester refuses to call a chapter in order to the receiving the new Bishop saying there is no vacancy.

May 16th 1691

Its possitively asserted that Admirall Trump is dead and supposed to bee poysoned. it was told yisterday that a Fleet of about 20 shipps laden with lead and cloath etc. from Hull were taken by a parcell of French priviteers upon the mouth of Humbar. It is sayd an Irish man is layd in Irons for endeavoring to fire a man of War named the Society. This week was sentenced at the Kings bench bar a parson of Buckinghamshire, being convicted at the Assizes in the

[1] General Andrew Mackay, killed at the Battle of Steinkirk, 1692.
[2] Archbishop Lamplugh.

Cuntry for drinking King James health and confusion to King William and Queen Mary hee had taken notwithstanding the oaths of Aleagiance and Supremacy, to pay 100 marks and caryed before all the Courts in Westminster Hall with a Labell in his hat of his ofence and the like to bee don at 3 Assizes in the Cuntry. hee sayd by way of excuse hee was drunk – a sweet Apology for a Divine – The busines[1] also between the Bp. of Exon and Dr. Bury touching Exeter Colledge was tryed and a speciall veredict found. Its sayd Dr. Beveridge elect for Bath and Wells refused to take it and so is put out of being the Kings chaplyn and forbid come to Court.

May 23rd 1691

The Queen hath news brought this morning that 15 of the Ships that were taken by the French going out from Hull are retaken. also wee have Intelligence that the Savoyans have beaten a party of the French, killed 500 and taken many prisoners. The Bp. of Lincoln being lately dead Dr. Tennison[2] of St. Martins is to succeed. Yisterday went 400 of the Horse Guard and others for Flanders. also the Duke of Ormonds Regiment.

I spoke with a gentleman that came from the Tower and hee sayd hee saw landed on Tower hill 20 pontoons brought from Holland. they are a kind of flat bottom boats like those in Motes and ponds made square and very light, about 20

[1] This dispute arose from Bury having expelled one of the Fellows of Exeter College in 1689. The Bishop of Exeter as Visitor ordered his restoration, and, on Bury's refusal to restore, the Bishop held a formal visitation. Bury tried to keep him out by force. He was, however, expelled and a new rector elected. The litigation alluded to here dragged on until the Lords decided against Bury in 1694.

[2] Afterwards, in 1694, on the death of Archbishop Tillotson, made Archbishop of Canterbury.

foot long and 7 broad and are to bee sent to Barwick. its supposed they are to make Bridges if there bee an occation.

May 31st 1691

The lord Prestons pardon is now generally affirmed to bee sealed and also Crones and both since released out of prison and that the lord Preston as tis sayd hath highly meritted his by making a great detection of persons as well as things which I will beleive when I see a Reformation as to places of trust. Col. Norton and Col. Tytus lye dangerously sick. Some lords and other gents in a Night fray lately killed a Bedle in Coven garden. The lord Archbp elect of Canterbury[1] is to bee consecrated tomorow and Dr. Sherlock preaches the Sermon. There was tryed this weeke an experiment of a new Engine[2] for diving for wreck, the Inventor exposing himselfe in person in the first Essay. Tis invented in order to fetch up Spanish Bullion and coyne that was cast away in Scotland in the Spanish Invasion, 1588, the Guns and some gould haveing already bin taken up. the figure which incloses the Diver is in the forme of a Bell and an Expedient to convey with it barrells of ayre for the Divers better subsistance in the Deepe.

June 6th 1691

The Lord Archbp of Canterbury since his Instalment is made one of the privy Counsell and its reported that the Bishop of London is marryed to the Countess of Plymouth daughter to the Lord President. It is much admired here that Monsiur St. Ruth is sent over from France to be Generall there[3] who hath bin so monstrous a persecutor that

[1] Tillotson, consecrated on Whitsunday at the Church of St. Mary le Bow.

[2] The diving bell may have been a novelty to Mr. Lapthorne, but it was no new invention. As early as 1538 one had been exhibited at Toledo in Spain.

[3] I.e. Ireland.

even the papists themselvs cry out against him and its thought his coming thither will cause a difference betwixt the French and the Irish though its sayd hee hath shewed some kind of lenity towards the protestants since his arrivall there.

June 13th 1691

I should have written you in my last that there is a folio book put out lately by Dr. Gale Schoolmaster of St. Paul's conteyning a discourse of our British History out of the manuscripts of the British Historians but I have forgotton the title of the book but as I remember the price is 20*s*. also I am informed Spelmans Councells both parts are printing in one volume the 2nd part is very scarce and of a prodigious price by reason it was burnt in the fire of London and I remember you have severall times written for it but I have forgotton whether sent. It is sayd that our Fleet was seen off Portsmouth Haven, sayling towards the west and it was talked as if the French fleet were out but not beleived. It seemes Mr. Guy is like to bee Secretary to the Tresury and not Mr. Charles Barton. its one of the greatest places for profit that is to bee disposed of. There is proces issued out in the name of the Atturny Generall against the late Archbp of Canterbury to put him out of possession of Lambeth house. The Lady Powys is dead.

June 21st 1691

On Tuesday night last dyed the lord Cheefe Justice Pollexfen[1] having bin sick about 5 dayes, his lady being in devonshire and daughter some few dayes before marryed to Mr. Buller of Cornwall. It is sayd Sir Geo. Treby[2] will succeed him in that place of Chiefe Justice. There was tryed

[1] Sir Henry Pollexfen (1632?–1691).

[2] Sir George Treby (1644?–1700). He did succeed Pollexfen.

at the King's bench bar on Wednesday morning one Major Parsons who fled beyond sea about 7 yeares since for the murder of Mr. Ward nere Bishops Stafford in Essex one Mr. Butler was concerned in it who was then tryed and executed. this Parsons went into the war under the command of our King then Prince of Orange and had don excellent service and came over with him and as I take it had a generous Imployment under him but having debauched a Cittizens wife of some quallity her to bee revenged caused him to bee indicted for the old fact of murder and the Jury have convicted him. Also there hath bin a tryall at bar touching the vallidity of Serjeant Maynards will and as to some poynts the Jury have found it speciall. They say there is an express that our King hath sent a challenge to the King of France to fight him and that if hee doe not come out into the Feild with his army for that purpose hee will breake in upon him with his.

June 28th 1691

The busines is tryed at the Kings Bench bar touching the great cheat by some of the Kings officers of the customes at Bristow and they are convicted and will receive sentence the last day of the Terme. also there hath bin a tryall about the Chamberlains place of London and it passed for Sir Peter Rich against the present Incumbent, viz: Mr. Robinson but Midsummer day when sherriffs were chosen there was also another Ellection for Chamberlaine and Mr. Robinson was put up and chosen. The Sherriffs are Sir Wm. Ashurst and one Levit. they agreed Ashurst on both sides but one Gore was set up against Levit and a pole was demanded and it appeared that Levit had by many the majority of voyces but they have demanded a scrutiny and 2 July the Ellection wilbe declared. The Arch Bp. of Canterbury hath now acquitted possession to the New Archbishop. Wee have had rumors

that both the Armies in Flanders and the Fleets at sea were engaged but no certainty. But a Captaine of a Danish ship being taken by the Fleet and brought in to Plymouth made oath that the French Fleet were at sea consisting of about 7 saile.

July 4th 1691

I have advised about the worth of Dr. Gale's booke and am informed by a man of great Judgment in learning that it is a valuable book etc. As for the second part of Spelmans Councells it is to no purpose to inquire for it till the Impression they are now about is extant for but few know that it is in hand and therefore they that have the former abate nothing of that excessive price. The Queene had lately an express from Russell[1] which was read in Councell and after sent as I am informed to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that according to best information the French Fleet were gon towards the Coasts of Ireland, and as was supposed, to watch for our Smyrna fleet and that our Fleet were hastning after them. upon this news our Merchants upon the exchange were under some consternation but yisterday news was brought that the Smyrna fleet were safe at Kingsale in Ireland which revived the Merchants spirits. I am informed that my lord Salisbury supping at the Earle of Oxfords where was also young Mr. Hampden and that the Earle of Salisbury being offended at some discourse of Mr. Hampdens had endeavored for such sattisfaction that hath occationed the Earles of Salisburys confinement. There is just now a fray[2] betwixt the Whitefriers men called

[1] Probably Edward Russell (afterwards Earl of Orford), Admiral of the Fleet.

[2] This riot was only quelled by the intervention of the Footguards. Subsequently the Benchers of the Inner and Middle Temple made a compromise with the outlaws of Alsatia and allowed the gates to remain open!

Assations (Alsatians) and the gentlemen of the Temple. the Templers shutting up their back gates against them they have broken them open and some part of the wall. the Sherriffs are gon to quiet them.

* * * * *

Since the above written I understand that the Sherriffe with his posse hath vanquished the White Fryers Raparees but with the loss of one of his officers who was killed and severall much woonded but the pests are fled from their quarters and about 70 of them sent to the severall prisons within the gates.

July 11th 1691

The greatest remark since my last is the taking Athlone by the acheevement of . . .[1] you will have an account thereof in the Gazette and wee have news, how true its not yet certaine, of the surrender of Galloway etc. Our merchants are very confident that our Smyrna fleet is safe though they have not possitive advertisement to warrant it. It is not known certainly where the French fleet is but wee have news that ours is neere the Lands end. Major Diamond that brought news of the taking of Athlone to the Queen was since murdered by 3 Irish papists as hee was talking with a gent in the Strand in the midle of the day. One of them was presently seized who discovered the other two and I heare another since is taken. A son of Sir — Strickland,[2] a late Admirall gon over to King James, being an Apprentice to a Mercer on Ludgate hill a while since in the night killed a man and was this sessions arraigned at the old Bayly and the matter of fact cleerly proved and yet the Jury brought it in manslaughter. the tryall was before Judge

[1] Probably Col. Talmarsh.

[2] Sir Roger Strickland (1640–1717), Admiral of the Blue. In 1688 he provoked a mutiny by having Mass said publicly on board.

Ayrs who was absent from the Bench when the veredict was given in but after hee returned called the Jury and reprooved them very sharply – but the widdow of the deceased entered her Appeale presently in Court. On Wednesday in the Afternoone was a great storm in and about London but much more in the Cuntry then here consisting of a great winde thunder rayne and Hale. the Haill was of an exceeding greatnes and hath beat down the corn in many places very much. Sir Jonathan Kent shewed mee a Letter from his Lady that his house in Hartfordshire about 20 miles from London was much damaged by the Haill in so much that £5 will not pay for the mending his windows that the Haill was some figured like spikes and others halfe so broad as the palme of her hand.

July 18th 1691

Wee have this day the best news brought of Ireland that hath happened since this Government commenced, viz: an Express is come to the Queene that the two armies on Sunday last engaged[1] and the Irish totally routed about 6000 of them killed and amongst their Comanders their Generall St. Ruth is slaine cum multis aliis and this express says that two more are coming imediately after that will give an account of the perticulars. upon this the Guns are gon off at the Tower and ringing of bells and I suppose wee shall have Bonefires at night. Its sayd that Our Smyrna fleet are hastning hither with a great convoy and wilbe here within a few howers. It is sayd that the Lord Dartmouth was taken into custody for having some of King James his plate and a tryall hath bin aginst the Lord Castlemaine[2] for keeping

[1] Battle of Aghrim, July 12th 1691.

[2] Roger Palmer, Earl of Castlemaine (1634–1705), diplomatist and husband of Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland, Charles II's mistress. He had been envoy of James II to Pope Innocent XI.

some plate which hee said hee had when hee went his embassage unto Rome and that since King James gave it him but it appearing at the tryall that it was after the Abdication the Jury found £3000 and odd mony for the King.

July 25th 1691

The inclosed Gazetts give you a more large account of my last about Ireland. Its said St. Ruth is killed with a Canon bullet. It seems the news about the danger of our Barbadoes fleet proves not true but wee have other bad news this day, viz: that by reason of a great storme our shipps were forced to remoove from the coasts of Dunkirk which gave the French Squaderne there an oppertunity to come out by surprize and so fall on fower of our Russia ships but I heare one is retaken by the James Gally. Our Smyrna fleet are come safe into the river. Its also sayd that the French came ashoare in the North of England neer Newcastle and burnt some of the Outhouses of the Lord Widdrington and killed two or 3 men but some dutch troops quartering there abouts upon notice came up and made the French retyre to their shipping and killed 3 or 4 of them. Here hath bin lately acted a very sad Tragedy by a young gent of Grayes Inn, viz: one Mr. Bird who was a student there and lived in his fathers chamber. His father was bred an Atturny in the North Cuntry and called lately to the bar in his old age. hee had gotten a great estate but many children. was very fond of this his eldest and tooke much care to breed him up so that hee might bee eminent in his calling and to marry him so as to have a portion that might contribute to the advancement of the younger children. The young man came not long since from the University of Oxford where it seems unknown to his father hee marryed with the Butlers daughter of the Colledge. She came lately to town big with child lodged

neer Hyde park. This match being discovered to the father made him outragious in anger towards his son and all love turned into the greatest hatred which took so much impression, as is supposed, on the sonn, that on Fryday was sevenight in the Evening hee wrote a Letter to her to meet him in some feild neere Hyde park: where being met she was murdered by having her throat cutt by him. his letter to invite her there being found in her pocket and nothing taken from her nether rings cloaths nor mony. her husband was fourthwith apprehended who had newly changed his cloaths but his hands cut and bloody. hee was comitted to New Gate and its very probable wilbe made an example of Justice for so great a cruelty. pardon these scribles I am in much hast.

August 1st 1691

Its sayd that on Thursday last was seized a paquet of Letters quilted in the carriers coat brought from Dover out of France to bee conveyed into Scotland, full of treason and sedition and the same were yisterday inspected by Queen and Counsell but what the result I know not as yet but its sayd that Sir Geo Treby the Atturny Generall being gon the day before to Tunbridge was sent for to come from thence etc. Transport shipps are sending to Ireland for 10000 soldiers to bee conveyed from thence to some other places for the Kings service as its sayd. things here looke with a tendency to reformation the Queen strictly injoyning the Laws to bee put in execution against Sabath breakers and swearers and many have since felt the penalties etc.

Wee have a kinde of a ketching feaver amongst us at present whereof many have dyed suddainly.

The Duke of Newcastle[1] is lately dead.

[1] Henry Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle (1630–1691).

August 8th 1691

I have bin most part of this weeke at Windsor having a son at Eaton schoole. I came home last night. Since my last I think the Earle of Dartmouth was comitted to the Tower for High Treason and the lord Preston to Newgate for some misdemenors but I was told that the Lord Prestons crime was in refusing to enter into Recognizance to appeare the next Sessions to give in evidence against some criminalls that are then to bee prosecuted but that now hee complies and is to bee bayled out this day. Wee heare that the two armies in Flanders are now within half a League of one another and its almost impossible but they must fight. The Lord Dorsets lady is dead. She was daughter to the Earle of Northampton. Mr. Crone that was lately pardoned its sayd is fled and It is this day reported that by some treachery our Magazeene in Flanders was in danger to bee blown up. Bartholomew faire by order of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen is to bee kept but for 3 days this yeare because its a season of great debauchery and therefore they think a fortnight to bee too long a space and it seemes according to its originall Institution it was to continew no longer then three dayes.

I was this day informed by some Warwickshire people that on Munday was sevenight at a place called Bilton neer the town of Rugby the minister teaching schoole in the Church about 11 of the clock in the forenoone before the schollers were dismissed there hapened a great tempest of thunder and lightning insomuch that severall were struck down and the steeple clift in two but the people struck recovered without hurt.

August 15th 1691

The Dover pacquet mentioned in my last was directed to a gent that lodged in our Neighbourhood. I knew him and

its sayd hee absconds. its sayd though very few are yet seized about it yet sevrall if they doe not fly in the meane tyme wilbe not only taken into custody but receive their tryalls about this matter. Last Sunday night a young gent of the Cursitor's office[1] about 10 a clock going through Grayes Inn lane passing by 2 Inhabitants there, one a Shoomaker having a pipe in his mouth, without any provocation broke his pipe with his Gantlet frenze glove and the man only saying it was not faire, hee drew his sword and run him through the body and killed him for which hee was by Mr. Buck a Justice in Hatton Garden sent to Newgate and no doubt ont wilbe hanged. Wee have had a sickly season and very sulphurous hot weather but now the ayre is temperate.

August 22nd 1691

Wee are now in hourly expectation to heare of the surrender of Lymerick: all circumstances of late from Ireland seeme to make way for it. Wee heare that there being a Truce proposed twixt the Turkish and German Empires the King of France hath made it his request to the Turk that hee may bee included. Our Tempests of lightning thunder and rayne have bin felt by us in some part of every day or night this weeke. whether it bee so generally in other parts wee know not. a poor woman was killed in her bed, a child lying by her without hurt. This morning two Granadeers soldiers were shot to death in Hyde park according to martiall sentence for mutyning against their officer a Leiftenant. Its sayd that the Comissioners of the Navy, Lords of the Admiralty and Comissioners for victualling of the Navy have lately had a conference and debate in order for making a winter provission for 40 men of war which are to bee out all winter for convoys and cruzing up and down to prevent mischeefe from the enimy.

[1] Office of the Court of Chancery whence original writs were issued.

August 29th 1691

It is certaine that Tyrconell is dead. also wee heare that Col: Lutterell was sentenced to death by a Councell of War for endeavoring a surrender of Lymerick but is repreived and that our Army is now sate down before the Town and wee hope to heare of its speedy surrender. Wee are informed that Sir Jo. Knight the Mayor of Bristol and others should send a message to Exeter to the Judges at the Assizes to let them know that if they came to Bristoll that season they could not bee enterteyned at the charges of the Citty and that the Judges returned Answer that, as to their enterteynment, they would not dispute it but were resolved according to course to come there and doe Justice etc.

September 12th 1691

Wee heare that the Imperialists have taken Great Warridon[1] from the Turks, and that wee have cutt off two of the Irish troops. I make no doubt but you have heard of the effects of the late storme amongst our shipping at Plymouth since which another great Man of War the Vaunt Guard run upon the Goodwin sands and was reported to bee lost but wee heare that she is gotton off. She had 600 men in her. Sir William Poultny that was competitor with Mr. Serjeant Powell for to succeed Judge Ventris on Sunday last after a plentifull dynner taking a napp in his chaire dyed. Mr. Bird of Grays Inn that murdred his wife in a Ditch neer Kensington was tryed this week and convicted and likewise Mr. Egerton Brett who killed the shoomaker in Grayes Inn lane. Wee heare the King wilbe here in a few dayes.

September 19th 1691

I make no doubt but you heare before these can come to your hands of the misserable disasters that have fallen

[1] Grosswardein (Varad), a town in Hungary.

amongst our shipping at Plymouth and now wee have news here that 30 French men of warr are got into the Shannon in Ireland: yisterday was executed at Tiburne the Grayes Inn gent that murdered his wife: hee was caryed in a coach and Dr. Wake the Minister of Grayes Inn went with him. hee confest the fact and dyed very penitent though hee denyed it at his tryall. his corps were brought back and buryed in our church St. Andrews Holbourne. Wee expect our King speedily whom God preserve.

* * *

Mr. Axe Sir William Portmans servant whom I knew well lately dyed and by his will hath given £1,000 to incourage some Mathematicall students to finde out the true longitude for the benefit of Navigators.

September 26th 1691

Wee have had very good news from Ireland of late, viz: Since the surrender of Sligo, of the routing of Sarsfeilds army and this day of the taking of Lymerick, if the last hold true.

October 3rd 1691

Wee have had a great busle about the choosing of the Lord Mayor. The Candidates proposed to the Livery were Sir Thomas Stamp and—Fleet, against Sir Jona: Raymond and Ald Dashwood, at the day of Ellection which was Michaelmas. Raymond and Dashwood demanded a pole and upon the close it appeared by many voices that it went for Stamp and Fleet but the opposite part not contented demand a scruteny which is granted. of the two chosen by the Comonalty the Court of Aldermen choose one for Mayor which is supposed wilbe Sir Thomas Stamp. On Munday last was executed at Tyburne Mr. Brett that killed the shoomaker in Grayes Inn Lane – repreeved for 10 dayes – hee was

carryed in a coach and the next day a great Funerall made for him and buryed in our Church. They continew still their Batteryes against Lymerick and wee doubt not but in few dayes it wilbe in the King and Queens hands. Wee expect the King home the first faire winde. 5 Guners are lately comitted to Newgate for Imbesselling the Kings store.

October 11th 1691

Wee have had here for a week various reports of the takıng of Lymerick and yet the Queene hath no certaine expresse of it though people doe generally conclude it is in their Majesties possession notwithstanding wagers pro and con are dayly made. There is a troope of the horse guard just now gon towards the Waters side to meet the King.

I have inquired about the price of hops at Sturbitch faire and was told by one that deales in that comodity much and was there that in the begining of the faire they were sold for 2 or 3 dayes from 27*s*. to 30*s*. but towards the end they advanced ordinarily to 33*s*.

October 17th 1691

I make no doubt but you have received the news of the surrender of Lymerick. the Articles are long and will bee speedily printed and when they come out I will send them. His Majesty is not yet come but wee expect him dayly. Its sayd the Queen hath received an express that Carmagnole is taken by the Duke of Savoy[1]. Sir Thomas Stamp is declared, though much opposed by one party, at last Lord Mayor of London. Sir George Treby is like to bee Lord Cheefe Justice of the Common Pleas. Its sayd that when the Bonefires and ringing of the Bells was for the surrender of Lymerick, the next day being the late King James

[1] Victor Amadeus II, Duke of Savoy and King of Sardinia.

Birthday, after the clock stroke twelve which was the beginning of the other day a fresh Bonefire was made in some part of the town and the Bells rung out afresh according to a secret reservation under the umbrage of the other celebration which was taken notice of.

October 24th 1691

The King came home Munday last and the greatest demonstration of joy shewed by the people that I have not seen the like, by Bonefires, ringing of Bells and illuminations by candles in the windows. On Thursday the parliament met when his Majesty made a most pathetick speech and they adjourned till Tuesday. The great prospect wee have of the peace twixt the Emperor and the Turk cheeres mightily the well affected protestants in this place which is supposed to bee a transaction of the greatest consequence that hath happened for some ages past. Mr. Levit one of the new sherriffs was knighted this weeke. The Lord Cheefe Justice Keating of Ireland upon the news of the surrender of Lymerick by a pistoll killed himself in Dublin being affraid of an Impeachment. The Lord Preston was sent from the old Bayly to Newgate as its said for refusing to give evidence against the late Bishop of Ely.

October 31st 1691

I suppose you heare of the Lord Dartmouth's suddaine death by an Appoplexy in the Tower.

Its sayd Sir Cloudsly Shovell lies dangerously ill.

November 7th 1691

Here was wonderfull rejoycing on Wednesday and Thursday, one being the King's birthday, the other Gunpowder Treason and the Kings day of Landing. wee have gotton a new way of expressing our solemnities, viz: insteed of

Bonefires, illuminations, that is all the windows towards the streets and Bellconies fitted with Candles burning which makes the night like day. This day being appointed by the parliament to make inquiry into the miscarriages of the Navie it was caried by the major voices to bee put off and so it is left now sine die. I had in my last forgot to tell you that the Earle of Clare our Lord Leiftenant for Middlesex hath laid downe all his places. some say it is because hee had not the garter that fell by the death of the Duke of Newcastle, hee being allied to the Family, it being likely to bee given to the Earle of Devonshire of the name and blood.

Blessed bee God the people here are universally zealous for the present government and I hope they are so with you in the Cuntry.

November 14th 1691

Wee have very litle of news save that sad tydings of the Fire at Kensington but they compute the damage but to £4,000 and they canot discover but that it happened purely by an accedent.

November 17th 1691.

Sir Cloudsly Shovell is upon recovery and the late Lord Mayor likewise who were both desperatly sick. the Author of the Observator hath bin under some trouble for a slip of his pen the which the House of Comons had noted. There is one of our men of Warr supposed to bee taken by the French, viz: the Adventure.

November 21st 1691

The parliament have made an Addresse, by the members which are of the privy Counsell, to his Majesty who hath granted that the confessions and papers of the Lord Preston

and Mr. Crone shall bee brought to the parliament as was desired. Severall have bin tryed at the King's bench bar this weeke for uttering seditious words against the Government and drinking disloyall healths. they are convicted but no sentence yet given. Also two ministers of the Church of England, who had taken the oaths to the present government, and some others meeting in Suffolk uttered many seditious words against the government and dranke certaine poysnous healths. they being brought to town were arraigned at the King's bench bar and pleaded guilty but sayd they were in drink and are to bee tryed the next weeke.

November 28th 1691

One day this weeke there being a Tryall at the King's bench Bar between the Duke of Albermarle[1] and the Earl of Bath in which Sir Thomas Higgins having given evidence imediatly after fell down dead in Court and never revived to the astonishment of the Spectators. Col. Godfrys Regiment yisterday marched through the Citty towards Flanders and I heare there are — Comissions which wilbe fourthwith given out in order to raise new Levies against the next Campayne. Its sayd that messengers are sent into the North to seize severall persons that have met in seditious clubbs of late where they have made expressions repugnant to the Government. There hath bin lately great robbing about London and perticularly in Hartfordshire, the thieves having killed severall that pursued them and amongst the rest Sir Thomas Blunts Cooke and Sir Thomas is my very good freind. Hee is one of the Knights of the Shire for Hartfordshire.

[1] Duchess of Albemarle must be meant as Christopher, 2nd Duke of Albemarle, died in 1686, leaving no issue. See later letters (February 24th 1693/4, April 28th 1695 note and June 20th 1696 note, etc.):

December 5th 1691

Sir Thomas Fowles and Ald: Dashwood are chosen by the comonalty to bee presented to the Mayor and Aldrmen, one of which is to succeed as Alderman in the roome of Sir Thomas Pilkington lately deceased. Yisterday the Comons voted an Assessment of one hundred and thirty seaven thousand six hundred fourty one pounds eighteen shillings and twopence per mens. a land tax for carrying on the war against France for 12 moneths.

December 12th 1691

There is one Mr. Fuller[1] a quondam servant of the late King James that came over in the same vessell with Mr. Crone and gave evidence against him at his tryall that hath made a late detection to the parliament of severall persons of quallity that have made an Address to King James to invade England and engaged if hee so did they would assist with 40,000 men. and offers to send for 2 men, one an Englishman, another a Scot out of Flanders, if they may bee protected, to prove the same. the Comons have him under examanation. What the result wilbe God knows.

Its sayd the Lord Preston had not been seen these 4 or 5 dayes.

December 19th 1691

Mr. Baxter[2] is dead and buryed and had the greatest number to attend his funerall of any since that of Oliver Protector. Sir Peter Rich hath bin lately, as is reported for some time, in some apoplecticall trances and reported to bee dead but is now sayd to bee living. There happened one thing

[1] A notorious informer.

[2] Richard Baxter (1615–1691), Presbyterian divine. He had suffered a good deal in the reigns of Charles II and James II. Imprisoned 1685–1686, and fined by Judge Jeffreys.

remarkable that I must note to you, viz: a debaucht youth of St. Giles in the feilds an Apprentice having run away from his master and his master and his mother meeting to make up the breach – she went to her son to a house neer by to bring him to his master. but hee swore hee would not goe with her to him and wished God would rot him if ever hee did, but shee continuing persuasive arguments at last prevailed with him who so soon as hee came within the dore his tongue begun to swell and lost his speech and presently fell down dead irrecoverably.

December 22nd 1691

It is sayd that Generall Ginkle[1] is to bee made Duke of Buckingham. The last weeke there being £4,000 of the Kings mony sent out of Suffolk and 6 men with Blunderbusses to guard it, neer Beckingsfeild they were met by 16 men who tooke £2,500 of the mony from them. I suppose you might know or have heard of one Mr. Richard Opie once of Plymouth but lately by matching an heiresse of £500 per Ann. neer Basingstoke was an Inhabitant there, having lately some busines at London was taken up dead out of the river of Thames neer London bridge and some think hee might voluntarily throw himselfe in by reason of some trouble coming upon him for a debt of £4,000.

December 26th 1691

Its sayd Sir Edward Seymour[2] is made one of the privy Counsell and that a patent is preparing for making him a Nobleman. also that the Duke of Bavaria is constituted Governor of the Netherlands. its sayd that the Lady Francis

[1] This rumour proved untrue. General Ginkel was in 1692 made Earl of Athlone.

[2] Sir Edward Seymour, 4th Baronet (1633–1708), Speaker of the House of Commons. He was made a Lord of the Treasury at this time.

Keightly the Lord Chancelor Hydes daughter lately cut her throat mortally. Mr. Baxters funerall sermon preached by Dr. Bates within a few dayes wilbe in prynt and I suppose worth your having. I remember you had Mrs. Baxters preached by Mr. How and therefore this is now offred.

January 2nd 1691(2)

Mr. Boyle[1] the famous philosopher is dead. There was lately a Highwayman taken by the Keeper of Newgates officers in the Temple but in the scuffle hee killed a porter that assisted the officers which will exclude him all maner of clemency. wee heare severall of those also that robbed the cariage and tooke away the King's mony are lately taken

January 9th 1691(2)

Severall things have lately occurred with us notable, viz: the strangling of Dr. Clench[2] in his coach being invited out by 2 Ruffians just as hee was going to bed, to see a patient. one Harison is comitted to Newgate on suspition.

A young gentlewoman was taken in the night by the Watch at Charing Cross and put into the Roundhouse and before morning hanged herselfe with her garter. A fellow of Criplegate parish Thursday last cursing and swearing at the same instant fell down dead irrecoverably. One that came in St. Clements parish to a Baker to lodge by the name of Captaine Wickham a gent of good estate in Oxfordshire made his will and gave £1,500 to the Baker and his wife and gave sevrall other legacies to others but a stranger to

[1] The Hon. Robert Boyle (1627–1691), Natural philosopher and chemist.

[2] Lapthorne has a good deal to say about this crime for which Henry Harrison gent. was sentenced to death at the Old Bailey on April 6th 1692. Dr. Clench had been dunning a Mrs. Vanwicke who owed him money. Harrison was a friend of Mrs. Vanwicke, lured Dr. Clench out to see an imaginary patient and strangled him in a hackney coach by means of a lump of coal twisted in a handkerchief.

the Baker and within a fortnight after hee came dyed and upon inquisition the deceased proves to bee a cheat, Captaine Wickham being alive. Newgate was againe attempted to bee burned and many prisoners like to have escaped but prevented.

January 16th 1691(2)

This week the Duke of Bolton[1] had a new house burnt by St. James park. The Lord Russell is made Lord Leiftenant of Middlesex in the roome of the Earl of Clare.

The busines of the fellow that personated Capt Wickham is as I represented and much worser. Narratives of it are put in print which shallbe sent in your box and will give you a pretty divertisment.

January 23rd 1691(2)

The greatest matter that takes up the chat of the people here is the devesting of the Earle of Marlborough[2] of all his places of trust. I heare his two Brothers upon hearing it have resigned their Comissions.

Its very bitter and frosty weather with us at present and the Thames like to bee frozen over.

January 30th 1691(2)

Its said that one of the wittnesses that Fuller offers to produce is one Hales that was secretary to Father Peters. on the 27th instant Sir Francis Leighs Lady viewing some pictures att the Lady Crews house fell down dead of an Appoplexy. One parson Smith Reader or Lecturer of Chelsy was yisterday comitted, by the Lord Cheife Justice Holt being accused for being concerned in many robberyes and assisting Highwaymen.

[1] Charles Paulet, 1st Duke (1625?–1699).

[2] John Churchill (1650–1722), later Duke of Marlborough.

February 13th 1691(2)

Our Terme concluded with nothing very remarkable saving on Thursday there was a Tryall in Westminster Hall touching a wager about Lymericks being in King William's possession by the 3rd of Oct. whereas there was but a part in possession. But there being present as Wittnesses The Lord Athlone,[1] Lord Cutts, and General Talmarsh and al. who gave evidence that though part were then only delivered in possession yet they might according to the Articles have had all but for some reasons which they alledged in Court they thought fit not to take possession of all till some dayes after and so the veredict was given against the Jacobite party there being many wagers for many thousand pounds depending on the Same Basis. The last night a fire happened in Hartshorne lane neer Northumberland House at Charing Cross. two or 3 houses were burnt down and I was told one thing remarkable that some part of a house being blown up a soldier and his wife being in a Garret were blown off into some part adjacent without hurt. This morning early began a very gentle thaw and continews without raine and the air warme which rejoiceth the harts of the people here.

February 21st 1691(2)

Although the Thaw begun a weeke since yet on Thursday there were some that passed over the Thames without a Boat. The last Lords day there was an Italian sermon preached in the Afternoone at Guildhall chappell and I heare it is to bee continued weekely there as a Lecture to gratifie some of our London Merchants. Dr. Woodruffe read at the same time the service of the Church of England in the Italian language. I am informed that about 20 considerable cittizens of London most of them of the Artillery

[1] General Ginkel, recently made Earl of Athlone.

society have invited the King, Generall Ginkle and Col. Talmarsh in the name of the Artillery Company to dine in the citty the next week and the Bishop of Salisbury is then to preach before them at St. Laurence Church. On Satturday night last or rather Sunday morning one Mr. Lawes the Schoolmaster of Maydston in Kent being at an Inn and drinking with Serjeant Wyats son upon some quarrell Lawes killed Wyat and is fled for it. Its sayd that His Majesty understanding that the Countess of Marleborough[1] continued with the Princess of Denmark at the Cockpit signyfied his dislike of it. upon which the princess not liking the message not only dismissed the Countess but also hath acquitted the lodgings herselfe and is gon to Syon house. On Thursday last at ten in the night a gent was killed with his own sword by two watermen in St. Pauls Churchyard. the watermen fled and are not taken. I was before dyner at Mr. Hoopers chamber in the Temple to have delivered your letter but the dore was shutt. I am just now going there againe.

* * * * *

Since the writing of the other lynes I have delivered your letter with my own hands to Mr. Hooper who will by the next post answer your Letter and you shall have what I promissed by Mr. Elston with whom I spoke just now.

February 27th 1691(2)

I presume you heare before now that the parliament are adjourned to 26 Aprill and its sayd his Majesty wilbe gon to Flanders the later end of the next week.

This day all the Gents I formerly mentioned dyned with the Artillery Company but the King was not there. Fuller the evidence is voted a notorious Imposter and the Atturny

[1] Sarah, later Duchess of Marlborough.

Genrall orderd to prosecute him accordingly. two parsons are comitted for High Treason, one Wilcox and Brett who were nonscribers[1] etc. Its sayd the Duke of Richmond[2] is come over and hath kissed the King's hand and declared himself a protestant. Its sayd that Sir Jo. Lowther and Mr. Pellam are out of the Comission for the Treasury, also its reported that the Lord Lincolne[3] is under some trouble for comanding his servant to beat a boy that afronted his lordship, the boy being since dead.

March 5th 1691(2)

His Majesty went hence yisterday morning at 5 of the Clock and wee hope is now on the coast of Holland. Sir Geo: Treby is declared Lord Chief Justice of the Comon pleas and Sir — Somers[4] the Solicitor Att: Generall and Mr. Trever to bee Sollicitor. Its sayd the Lord Chief Baron Atkins desires to retyre and to have a quietus by reason of age and other infirmities. There was a duell fought lately as wee heard by the Lord Berclay[5] and Coll: Greenvill about Madam Temple one of the mayds of honor but no great hurt don saving its sayd the last received a slight wound. There dyed one morning the last weeke as hee was making himselfe ready in the morning one Mr. Panceford, aged twixt 60 and 70, of an Appoplexy. Hee and I heard a funerall sermon preached for a freind to us both the last Wedsday. God knows whose turne it may bee next.

[1] Non-jurors.

[2] Charles Lennox, 1st Duke (1672–1723), natural son of Charles II.

[3] Edward Fiennes Clinton (1650–1692), Earl of Lincoln.

[4] John Somers, Baron Somers (1651–1716), later Lord Chancellor. He was one of the chief supporters of William III.

[5] John Berkeley, 3rd Baron (1660–1697). The Maid of Honour was Martha Jane, daughter of Sir John Temple, whom Lord Berkeley of Stratton married on March 8th 1691.

March 12th 1691(2)

I have received the £14 3*s.* 0*d.* of Mr. Gough for which I returne you many thanks. I have in my possession Hillary Term Catalogue of books $\frac{2}{8}\frac{0}{9}$ and am told where the other is, viz: Michaelmas 1690 which so soone as I have received shallbe sent. Its sayd the King is landed at the Brill but I know not whether certaine. The Queene Dowager being ready to take shipping its sayd there is an order from the Queene for her stay till further order. The Lord Berkly is marryed to Sir Wm. Temples daughter about which the quarrell was. The Earle of Oxford[1] lyes a dying. The cittizens of London seeme to bee much concerned about chusing their Recorder upon Sir G. Trebys leaving them. its sayd the candidats are Serjeant Tremaine, Sir Bart: Sewers, and Mr. Crips the Common Serjeant. There is a discourse as if the princess of Denmark would remove for some tyme to the North of England but I hope it is not true.

March 19th 1691(2)

Yisterday severall of the Nobles from the Court were to waitt on the Court of Aldermen and Common Counsell to borrow two hundred thousand pounds on the Fund of the Customs which was granted. Mr. How[2] Chamberlaine to the Queen is put out of his place and its sayd one of the Earle of Lindsys brothers or Mr. Saer belonging to the Queen Dowagers Court is to bee put in his roome. There is this day a discourse of an Insurrection in Normandy in France but I give no credit to it also that some Nobles there are come over to the Hugonite religion. There was another gent a Middlesex Justice of Peace not far from my house

[1] Aubrey de Vere, 20th Earl (1626–1703). He did not die on this occasion.

[2] John Grubham How or Howe (1657–1722), politician ('Jack How'). He was Vice-Chancellor to Queen Mary 1689–1692, and on this dismissal became a violent Tory.

dyed suddainly Wednesday last. Thursday one Williams a Fencing Master fought with one Captaine Heard and killed him on the place.

March 26th 1691(2)

There is but litle of News stirring at this tyme saving a generall preparation for war both by sea and land. Our Trayne of Artillery is fitted to Admiration according to the discourse of those which have seen it and its now owned at Court as I heare that a discent is really designed. Its sayd Captaine Billop Comander of one of the King's men of War is speedily to bee tryed by a Court Martiall for some great misdemeanor. Most people with us finde their bodyes out of order upon the Thaw after the last great frost. The weather is very uncertaine: The last night very stormy for winde and rayne and so the day, God preserve our shipping. The King hath sent orders for the Gentlemen pensioners each man to fit himselfe with 2 good horses one for himselfe and another for his man that so they may bee ready to goe over to attend him when hee sends.

* * * * *

I heare say a proclamation is coming fourth for a Generall fast Friday sevenight and to bee kept monthly during the Kings absence.

April 2nd 1691(2)

There was a certaine Welch Knight that accused the Lord Sydney[1] that is going Ld. Lt. of Ireland for being guilty of selling places, which when his Lordship heard of it hee desired the Queen and Counsell that the matter might bee heard before them and a tyme being appointed the Lord

[1] Henry Sidney, Viscount Sidney and Earl of Romney (1641–1704). The handsomest man of his time. He was made Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland in 1692.

Sydney was ready but his Accuser never appeared. Its sayd that the King will returne within a Fortnight. I know not whether I formerly wrote that Camden's life and Epistles are printed by Mr. Chiswell at £4 7*s*. 6*d*. price.

April 9th 1692

Vigurous preparations are still continued here for the Summer's expedition and the discent as much as ever talkt off. the Queene Dowager is gon for France. Sir Rowland Gwinn is out of his place at Court, viz: Treasurer of the Chamber worth £2000 p. Ann. for accusing the Lord Sydney and not making good his charge at the Counsell Table. Murders have been committed almost every day this weeke last past. On Thursday last one Captaine Baker was killed at Whitehall and a day or two before an officer of the army or Navy killed the Bedle of St. Clements in the midle of the afternoone for which hee is in Newgate. also one Mr. Thornecroft a Cursitor[1] killed Mr. Camdall at Hide Park in a Duell and one Mr. Cooke of the six clerks office I suppose is now on his Tryall for killing a man a while since in the Strand. Harrison that hath layne sometyme in Newgate accused for murdering Dr. Clench hath bin tryed and found guilty of the murder and amongst other remarkable circumstances one was the evidence of a Semestress who possitively proved that hee bought the Hanchircheife of her which was found about the Doctors neck. There is a Bill of High Treason, its sayd, found by the Grand Jury against two Non-swearing Church of England Parsons and they are to receive their Tryall on Munday next.

April 16th 1692

Wee had a flying report that there was a squadron of the French fleet on our Coast but its not confirmed. It seems

[1] The Cursitor's Office was an office of the Court of Chancery.

the Queen Dowager is yet at Dover and some say that the French King refuses to admitt her yet to land in France. There have bin papers scattered up and down purporting Letters from King James to the privy Counsellors of England to come over and bee present at his Queens labor. she expects it about midle of May and promiss: their protection of ingress and regress but its presumed to bee the Witticisms of some ayry brains. Yisterday was executed Harison in Holborne for the murder of Doctor Clench hee was convicted by a multitude of concurring circumstances though hee denyed the fact at last. His Tryall and execution will come out *6d.* a part which you shall have. Its sayd that the King wilbe here within a Fortnight. The call of Serjeants will not bee till the end of the Term. I have one of the termes Catologues of books by mee and am promissed the other which I still remember to procure for you.

April 23rd 1692

All the chat now is of the French making their discent upon us at which our people seeme at present to sport but God knows whether it may not prove in earnest. Dr. Wood the Bishop of Leitchfeild and Coventry is dead and Dr. Lloyd Bishop of St. Asoph its said will succeed. Its sayd that some gent from France landed lately at Rumney Marsh, 3 were taken: 2 made their escape but one is in custody. its also sayd they have some treasonable papers in the ship. its sayd likewise that the last night a sham Declaration from King James was posted up in this towne.

April 30th 1692

This day were Installed the call of New Serjeants and Sir G. Treby[1] made Lord Chief Justice of the Comon Pleas.

[1] Sir George Treby (1644?–1700), one of the Counsel for the Seven Bishops.

The formallity of walking was dispensed with by reason of the exceeding wet weather, they being carried in coaches. The motto of their Rings is Lex domi Arma foris.

Mr. Row who should have bin one lyes a dying – hee is our cuntryman – Mr. Smyth of the Midle Temple refusing it, Mr. Bonithan a Cornishman had that vacancy.

May 7th 1692

The busines about the French their Discent on us is so confusedly talked of, that I know not how to methodize it for a relation but that they designed it as also that they were incouraged to it by some Bedlime protestants as well as papists here I doe not doubt but our Fleet being out and wee awake its supposed they are prevented for this tyme. Its sayd wee are encamping about Portsmouth. a 100 carriages past through the Citty this day towards that place. The Earl of Marleborough, Lord Huntington, Lord Scarsdale, Earl of Salisbury, Lord Brudnall and others are sayd to bee comitted to the Tower and many Comoners in custody.

Mr. Ferguson[1] in Newgate but I suppose hee will get off.

May 14th 1692

I doe not heare yet that the other part of Woods booke is come out. When it does you shall have notice. Its sayd the Queene hath a certaine expresse that our Fleets are joyned at St. Heyleyns by Portsmouth. Major Gen. Talmarsh[2] is arived here with 3 Regiments of Soldiers from Flanders. On Munday our Malitia for Middlesex appeared in arms before the Queens Majesty in Hide Park And the day following the malitia for London did the like. The lord Mayor in a Millitary habit on horsback being their leader

[1] Robert Ferguson (d. 1714), 'The Plotter.'

[2] Thomas Tollemache (1651?–1694). He became Lieutenant-General in this year and fought at Steinkirk.

which her Majesty tooke very kindly. The last night was a great search for horses in and about this towne and an Imbargo by order of Counsell for the stopping of all horses whatsoever till further order and its sayd the Counsell will not sit till Munday so that this being Whitesuneve many Gallants are hendred from travelling to Epsom and other places of pleasure as well as many others from Journying about their lawfull occasions. There was a search made for Sir John Fenwick,[1] in the proclamation the last night, who narrowly escaped out of his Bedchamber. they seized his Breeches etc. Yisterday there having bin a Hearing in Chancery before the lords Commissioners of the Great Seale of a Cause between the Earl of Clare and the Earle of Thanet after which the Two lords casually meeting in Lincolns Inn feilds had a rancounter both being wounded but not mortally. Wee heare A French Man of Warr comanded by Monsieur Turvill of an 104 Guns was sunck coming out of Breast.

May 21st 1692

Since my last the Lord Lucas Lt. of the Tower seized the Lord Midleton late Secretary to King James and another Lord and one Sir — Forrester in a widdow womans house at Wapping who are comitted to the Tower and she to Newgate. Mr. Ruytter that maryed the Lady Chichester was seized and comitted to Newgate but is out on Bayle: but to wave any further chat of smale matters Blessed bee God this day hath brought us joyfull Tydings of our fight and victory against the French fleet.[2] Wee have distroyed neer 20 shipps and are in pursuit of them the winde favoring us and wee are gotton 'twixt them and France.

[1] Sir John Fenwick (1645–1697), the Conspirator. He had insulted the Queen in 1691. His name appears frequently in these letters.

[2] The battle of La Hogue, fought May 19th 1692.

Wee heare the sum and also some perticulars wilbe in print before the post goe which I intend to send. This news wonderfully cheers the peoples hearts here and I make no doubt but it will have no lesser effects with you in the Cuntry.

May 28th 1692

Wee are here full of joy for the good news which every day comes with increase of our victory at sea against the French, as Admirall Russells[1] burning 12 Great men of Warr at once and since also the burning of all their passport shipps. The news is generall and confirmed that Great Warridon[2] is surrendred to the Emperor.

Admirall Russell is come to St. Hellens by Portsmouth where are gon to meet him from the Queen the Lord Rochester, Sydney, Portland and another, as its sayd to consult about our speedy discent on the French, many passport shipps being made ready and sending to Portsmouth for that purpose with Artillery and other necessaryes.

Captaine Hastings slayne in the Engagement was carried through this towne in great pomp to bee interred last night at Westminster at the Queens charges.

June 4th 1692

The second part of Woods booke will not come out these 3 weeks but when it comes I willbe sure to remember your comand and the other Cattologue of the printed books. Wee have but litle news at present but expect every day to heare of a Fight between our Army and the French in Flan-

[1] Edward Russell, Earl of Orford (1653–1727). Succeeded Torrington in Command of Fleet in 1690.

[2] Grosswardein (Varad), a town in Hungary. It had been in Turkish hands since 1660, but was recaptured by Austrian troops under Louis of Baden.

ders. I was informed that a Gent had a Letter from a gent of good quallity that I well know neer Totnes, that a squadron of our men of War had mett with a fleet of merchant shipps with some French men of War for their Convoy and that our Shipps had beaten their men of war and taken severall of the merchant shipps and brought them into Plymouth. Wee have had much raine for some days here and some thunder and lightning but now faire weather. The raine hath don much good here. inclosed are the Gazetts.

June 11th 1692

Wee have news this day that 200 wagons loaden with provissions and mony going to the French Camp were intercepted and all taken by our Army in Flanders and every man of their convoy cutt off. Also wee heare further that the Governor of the Castle of Namur hath signified to our Army that hee hopes they shalbe able to hold out neer a moneth longer and that the men are in good health and very brisk and courajious and that they have by their Canon killed 2,000 of the French from the Castle. Yisterday being the Ellection for the Recorder's place of London and Serjeant Tremayne and Serjeant Lovell being Candidates, Serjeant Lovell hath gott it.

June 18th 1692

Its said our Fleet have gon to St. Mallows and our passport boats are all drawn down to Portsmouth and its generally beleived in order to a speedy discent into France, but this day wee have good news if it prove true, viz: that the French making a brisque attack against the castle of Namur but the beseeged not only have with great courage defended themselves but have made great slaughter amongst the enimy and beaten them out of the town and with other concurring help have raised the seige and this discourse is very

warme up and down ye town here. Wee have at this time great raines here being in the middest of our Hay harvest.

All the prisoners were bayled out but ten and of the tenn that were remanded the Lord Marleborough and Huntington are two.

Some part of the above written about Namur is a possitive truth[1] that a great slaughter hath bin made amongst the Beseegers and that they have lost some of their works, viz: the Devills house and that the French Army are in great straights for want of provissions but the raising of the seige wants confirmation.

June 26th 1692

Of the taking of the great Fort of Namur I suppose you have heard but wee hope the Castle holds out still. Sir Thomas Cooke and one Mr. Lane were chosen yisterday Sherriffs of London for the next yeare, two very fitt men, and Mr. Robinson the former Chamberlin continued.

Thursday 4 privy Councellors were struck out of the book: 2 of them were cursorily out before, viz: the Lord Marleborough and Lord Torrington. The other two were the Lord Hallifax and Lord Shrewsbury.

The Discent into France is still much talkt of.

July 2nd 1692

Wee have had but litle news since the surrender of the Castle of Namur. Its sayd our preparation for the Discent goes on and yisterday it was reported from Hastings in Sussex that a Fleet about 40 saile being seen off that port a small vessell was sent out to learn what they were who coming neer and making inquiry they owned they were going for France and asked whence the litle vessell came who told

[1] How positive is shown in the following letter.

them from Whitehall. they shoot a Bullet at her and would have boarded her but she having oares and it being calme she got from them but it seems they were Danes or Swedes and the Reporters say that as they verily guessed it being Haizy weather there were some French men of war with them. There was lately apprehended one Coles[1] a plummer and comitted to Newgate upon suspicion to bee one of the murderers of Dr. Clench. hee was accused by the widdow of one Miller who lately dyed in Coles house and supposed hee was poysened by Coles and Miller told his wife a litle before his death that Coles and himself were the two persons that murdered him. One day this week in the forenoon two houses fell down about ten of the clock behind the old Exchange just against the Change and only one killed. Wee have now excellent summer weather blessed bee God.

* * * * *

Some say the King is coming home and will manage the discent in person.

July 9th 1692

I received yours yisterday and shall observe your directins with as much speed as I can. Yisterday came fourth an excellent penned order from the Queen and Councell about quartering of soldiers and I beleive to the great Sattisfaction of the subject. Wee have had a week of excellent seasonable weather and also a prospect for its continuance. our Neighbor the Lord Chief Justice Treby hath bin ill for about a Fortnight and hath missed the begining of the Circuit but I heare is so well that hee setts out on Munday next in order to give a despatch to the remaynder of the Circuit. The Lord Comissioner Trever also hath bin ill of a kind of an appoplecticall feaver but is pretty well recovered. the

[1] One Harrison had already been executed for this murder. See letter of April 16th 1692, *ante*.

Lord Chief Justice Treby's distemper was an erysipilis or St. Anthonys Fire.

July 16th 1692

Admirall Rooksby[1] hath bin before France but no feats some say at the appearance of the Squadron many French protestants assembled at a place adjacent expect: the discent and were all taken by the French King's forces and its thought, if so, wilbe misserably handled.

Wee had on Munday last a prodigious storme of Haill which fell for an hours space: much of the Haile was as big as pistoll bullets. Yisterday being St. Swithens was very faire and so is this day so that wee hope the weather is setled. Wee have but little news, the gentry being most out of town by reason of the season of the yeare.

July 23rd 1692

Wee heare now for certaine that all the forces are shipping off at Portsmouth for the Discent, about 20 Regiments. And its sayd Pignoroll is againe beseeged by the Duke of Savoy. it was also reported that Namur was invested by us but the last proves not true.

July 30th 1692

Yisterday wee had news that part of our Army in Flanders had engaged[2] a part of French and the contest was about a passe lying neer the two Armies that at length wee beat them but not without the loss of some thousands on our part. some say 2000 but many more of the enimies distroyed and 6 peeces of Canon taken from them. Col. Mackay was killed and Lord Cutts wounded. But since the Queene hath

[1] This must be Sir George Rooke (1650–1709), who was made Vice-Admiral of the Blue in this year. Took part in the Battle of Barfleur.

[2] The battle of Steinkirk.

received an express that the French made a Rally so that there hath bin a 2d Rancounter and the French hath retaken the passe and that in this engagement wee have lost 12 Collonells so that you may guess what number of men by consequence must bee cutt off of which wee have yet no certaine account but its veryly supposed this wilbe a cause to engage the two Armies and that they have either fought or are now fighting. The Gazett will tell you the shipps with men and all other materialls designed for the discent are under sayle.

August 6th 1692

I intend Tuesday next to bee at Windsor and to stay till Fryday with my son that is at Eaton Schoole it being Ellection week. Hopps are like to bee very deare this yeare as I heare by the chatt of the people. I suppose you heare of the returne of our Fleet, designed for the Discent, to the Spithead. 6 of the Cabinett Councell have bin down with them but to what purpose wee heare not. But its sayd that the measures of the Discent are altered and that they designe for Flanders. The Duke of Bavaria's Secretary was lately executed for holding correspondences with the French which hee confessed and that hee had an 100 Luedores for every letter hee wrote.

August 13th 1692

The earthquake in Jameca[1] was very terrible, almost al Port Royall, their metropolis, being swallowed up and now covered with the sea and its said all parts of the Island felt it. 2000 soules perished in 2 minuts time. the Fleet designed for the discent are come into the Downs and its sayd are refitting, having taken in 2 moneths provissions and going off to sea againe.

[1] The great Jamaica earthquake. It caused the main part of Port Royal, which was built on a shelving bank of sand, to fall into the sea.

August 18th 1692

Wee have good news and bad going – its sayd our men are safe landed in Flanders neer Dunkirk but our pacquet boat from Holland is blown up, 100 persons in it. 60 perisht and 40 floating on the water their lives were saved by an Ostender. Its sayd wee are neer Namure in order to beseege it. The Duke of Savoy prospers in his proceedings. also its sayd our Army have invested Ipres. but the French meeting with some Dutch merchant shipps homeward bound with a convoy of 2 men of war have taken 3 merchant shipps and the two men of warr. The Queen had an express this day of a rancounter neer Namur.

August 20th 1692

Its sayd that orders were sent to our Transport fleet to sayle and that accordingly they sayled yisterday about Noone towards Dunkirk. some say the men are to bee landed at Ostend. Its sayd the prisners in the Tower are all bayled out to appeare first day of the next terme and that a Comission of Oyer and Terminer will issue to try some great ones. Also its sayd that the Conffession of Monsieur Granvill[1] who was executed for purposing to assassinate King William will shortly be printed.

September 3rd 1692

As to the Generall account of affaires abroad its sayd wee have a prospect that the summer will close well, some great actions are expected every day to bee in agitation.

Wee have had 3 weekes of very lovely Harvast weather and the yeare its thought wilbe crowned with plenty.

Since my last I saw Captaine Salisbury that brought the expresse of a party of our army being gon towards France;

[1] Grandval.

hee was in the paquet boat that was blown up and was thrown 3 fathom underwater but as hee got up his head struck against a plank and plunged him downe againe as deepe as before, but getting up againe hee took hold of the plank and so was saved by the help of the Ostender that they thought to bee their enimy. hee told mee hee saw the man executed that was tryed for designing to kill King William.

September 6th 1692

Philpots survey of Kent was very hard to bee gotton. I had much adoe to have it for 10*s*. Sir Wm. Godolphin was in the shop when I bought it. I think I formerly wrot why I did not send Dufreigns booke because Mr. Smiths is by much the worst edition being so informed by Mr. Litlebury and I could not get the Pariss edition but make no doubt but to buy it at some of our winter Auctions. the pamphlet I sent you of Leiftenant and Dep. Lt. was of much esteeme here.

September 10th 1692

Although I wrote to you but on Tuesday last, yet I (cannot) forbeare writing to you againe the last post to give an account what happened on that day viz: Tuesday last but by reason of the shortnes of the tyme I thought to defer it till now. It was thus, I tremble almost to relate it, that on Tuesday last about two in the Afternoone there happened a Generall Earthquake or shaking of the earth and throughout all London citty and suburbs and about 20 miles as some say, others less others more, in the circumfering cunties. I must confesse I nor no one of my family perceived the shaking. Tho most of my neighbours did and even ran out of their houses and so they did in most places fearing the houses would fall upon them, only I had this symteme, which upon

discourse most others had, viz: a giddines in my head at that time. The stroak or shock lasted not above a minute or as many say but an halfe a minute. I doe not heare it hath don much damage only at some places a litle shattered the Chymneys. What Controvercy God intends further with us is only known to himselfe. The night before a fire happened in Eastchip neer the Tower and burnt down only one house, the next adjacent being blown up to prevent its spreading. Its now generally reported that Dunkirk is beseedged and that they have but a moneths provission in the towne and none can bee caryed thither now by reason our shipping and armie have surrounded it. I have this day againe inquired about the price of hops and am informed that hops of the last yeare are sold for between fower and five pound the hundred and new hops between £7 and £8 an hundred.

The Superstructure of the buildings not only shaked but the ground itselfe and those that were in vaults and cellars affected with the shock as well as those in chambers. even those which sat on the benches in the Royall Exchange were shaken as they sate.

September 17th 1692

I perceive by your letter you felt not the Earthquake in your parts. It was felt in the Kings Camp, also at Amsterdam and Ostend and in most other places within 60 miles and further about London. Wee heare that the Confederats are attacking Wyouxburgh neer Dunkirk and that they intend to winter in those parts, viz: Dixmud etc., and that the King is sending passport shipps from Ostend to fetch ten thousand chaldrons of coales from Newcastle to make firing for the camp and that they shall keep togeather in Hutts about the places above mentioned. The Dutchess of Albemarle was marryed to the Lord Muntegue the same day the earthquake happened.

September 24th 1692

I received yours last night and as to the prices of the two books. as to Mr. Rays Hist. Plant.[1] 2 vol. I can buy them new and well bound here for 26*s*. as for the other, viz: Kirchers phonourgia nova its very scarce here. I made great inquiry after it and perceived the Booksellers were strangers to it, then I went to Mr. Litlebury who is our standard for knowing Authors and hee knew nothing of such a booke. hee lookt into the Oxford Catalogue and could not finde it but going to an Ingenious man that hath taken paines to keepe an alphibiticall Register of most books and prices that have been sold in our London Auctions And in one Voets Auction found this booke printed beyond sea 1673 fol. with figures price 9*s*. 6*d*. Its a scarce booke and you may now use your own measures about buying it. Its reported our Army intended for the discent are coming home re infecta and the D. of Savoy for certaine is gon back: and some say that hee expected our men to land in some other parts of France. I was last night with Mr. Petit that assisted Dr. Burnet in searching the parliament Rolls when hee wrote the Reformation and hath now Mr. Pryns place of Record Keeper of the Records in the Tower and hee tells me Sir Robert Cotton[2] hath for some tyme given him the free use of his manuscript Library where hee hath bin for some tyme very busy but the next weeke goes out of town and the next weeke after wilbe here againe and then hath promissed mee if I call on him at his Chamber in the Temple will take mee in the coach with him to the Library. I have received the mony on the Bill.

[1] Historia Plantagenet (?).

[2] The owner of the Cottonian Library at this time was Sir John Cotton, 3rd Baronet (1621–1701).

October 1st 1692

The Cittizens of London have bin very busy about ellection of their mayor since Thursday. Sir John Fleet and Sir Jonathan Raymond Candidats. much contesting by the 2 parties about it. the pole was not over at noon, but its thought Fleet will cary it. Wee have had news this day by the Forraign post, viz: That the French have cutt off 700 of the German horse on the Rhyne and taken 300 prisoners. The contest hath bin very sharp 'twixt the candidats. Sir Jo. Fleet and Sir John Hubland against Sir Jon. Raymond and Sir Peter Daniell. I just now heare the pole being over that the 2 first have gotton the victory by a great number of voyces and that the Court of Aldermen have declared Sir Jo. Fleet Lord Mayor.

October 8th 1692

Wee every day have tidings of the loss of our shipping and its confidently asserted that 3 East India ships coming homewards, one of ours and 2 of the Dutch, are sunck by the French.

the heat about chusing the Lord Mayor is pretty well over.

October 15th 1692

I received yours last night and in my next without faile will give you a full account touching Dufreigns Glossary. I had bespoken that book of Dr. Cudworths before the receit of your Letter. I had a short view of Sir Richard Cottons library. It is seituated adjoyning to the house of Commons at Westminster of a great highth and part of that old Fabrick but very narrow as I remember not full 6 foot in breadth and not above 26 in length, the books placed on each side of a tollerable highth so that a man of an indifferent stature may reach the highest. Over the books are the

Roman Emperors I meane their heads in brass statue which serve for standards in the Catalogue to direct to find any perticular book, viz: under such an Emperor's head such an number and so I take it when they are cited in printed authors they are referred. I had not time to look into the books. Some relicts I took notice of besides the books, viz: I saw there Sir Henry Spelmans and Buchanons pictures well done: also Ben Johnsons and Sir Rt. Cottons and in the stairs was Wickliffs. I had in my hand the sword of Hugo Lupus Earle of Chester that came in with the Conquest. I saw Pope Eugenius his Bull to the King of England the originall in a faire Greek charecter in parchment anno 1500 and od yeares. insteed of wax seales were the Cardinalls heads in metall that subscribed it. I also saw Dr. Dees Instruments of consuration[1](?) in cakes of Beeswax almost petrified with the Images lines and figures on it. a great many panim deities in Copper etc. Wee heare this morning that King William is landed at Harwich and wilbe here this night and that the French are gon off from Charleroy.

October 22nd 1692

I have bin with Mr. Smyth and seen Dufreign's Glossary 2 vol. fo: not very bigg in bulk but the charecter small. they are both Greek printed at Lyons 1688. much like in bulk Sir Francis Bacons Resuscitation in two fo: volums but somewhat bigger. the lowest price 55*s*. if you please to write for these they shallbe sent. The King came to towne Thursday night about 7: where hee was received with the greatest demonstrations of joy by Bonefires ringing of Bells discharge of Canon and universall Lumination so that the whole towne seemed to bee but one Great light. Wee are informed that in his passage hee was mett by 6 French

[1] Conjuration?. John Dee (1527–1608) and his son Arthur (1579–1651) were noted astrologers in their day.

men of warr and was in some danger. his own convoy being somewhat too far behinde but upon their making up the French vanquisht.[1]

October 29th 1692

This day being the Mayor's Anniversary the King and Queene dyned at Guildhall and were conducted with the greatest demonstrations of reverence and obedience. The foraigne Gazets mention an Earthquake of late in 2 of the Switzer Cantons, Basil and Scaffoospen[2] or such like name, besides the two others lately about Brussells and Mastricht.

Captain Kimpthorne was last night killed at the Ship tavern without Temple Bar by one that is an officer in the Royall Oak Lottery, as also the last night a young gent one Mr. Chester, heire to a good estate, went in alone to supp at the Fountaine tavern in Coven Garden upon a dozen of larks and sending the boy for a tart to close his supper, when the drawer returned found him dead, having shott himselfe with a pistoll. a gent of my acquaintance saw him dead this morning.

November 5th 1692

Yisterday the Parliament met to whom His Majesty made a speech which is since printed and here inclosed, after which the House of Commons adjourned till Thursday next and the lords to Tuesday. The Commons before their adjournment entred upon some cursory affaires, viz: appoynting Comittees and issuing out of writts for filling up of vacant places for members. The Citty have lent his Majesty two hundred thousand pounds.

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They also voted that if the members bee not here by Wednisday come sevenight they are to bee in custody.

[1] Vanished. [2] Schaffhausen.

November 12th 1692

The Parliament have voted an addresse to congratulate the Kings safe returne and thanks for his speech and are resolved to assist him to the utmost against his enimies and yisterday designed to fall upon the busines of the Navy this day but what don I know not. Yisterday were executed on board a ship 3 seamen according to the sentence of a Court-Marshall. the one was a Captaine, who was shot, for delivering up his ship without fighting to the enimy: the other 2 were hanged for mutiny. Yisterday dyed Sir Thomas Fowler an Alderman of London. Yisterday neer Barnet a carier was robbed of £1500 of the Kings mony by the oversight of the Receiver who should have sent it with a Guard. Here are frequent Roberies upon the road in and about this towne and other parts. the Robbers are very numerous and very audacious.

November 19th 1692

I received yours last night and shall act according to your Instructions therein. There hath bin some discourse in the house of Lords about the confinement of the Lord Marleborough and Lord Huntington and not discharging their Bayle but this weeke their Bayle were discharged at the Kings Bench bar. The Tryall of Fuller censured by the House of Commons the last sessions is put off till Thursday next. Wee have much foggy weather here. One Mr. Hill wee heare is chosen member for Saltash upon the death of Sir John Cary. Some say the Ld. Leiftenant of Ireland is coming over upon some misunderstanding betwixt him (and) the house of Commons there and that parliament is prerogued till Aprill.

November 26th 1692

There have bin many persons of quallity lately dyed and severall suddainly seized with a kind of bastard Apoplexy.

Mr. Powle, Master of the Rolls is dead and Sir Jo: Trever the Speaker in his place: 3 or 4 great cittizens as Alderman Bootle, Sir Symon Lewis. Sir Thomas Fowler was buryed Thursday last, the greatest funerall wee have had a long time. That night dyed the Earle of Lincolne. Shadwell the poet Lawriat is dead and a son of the Lord Newports also dead and many others. Yisterday was a tryall at the Kings bench bar betwixt the Duke of Norfolk and one Germane a Flanderkin or Dutchman for debauching the Dutchess.[1] the Jury found for the Duke but gave but 100 marks damages which was much taken notice of by the Court and most of the towne to bee too litle especially since the defendant being a man reputed to bee worth 50 thousand pounds.

Young's [2] tryall is put off till next terme.

December 2nd 1692

I intend God willing to send the things you wrote for the next Satturday I thought to have don it now, but could not so conveniently doe it. The Parliament are fallen upon the Great affaires of the nation and its thought in a little tyme will come to a Resolution as to many of the perticulars thereof. Fuller that was sentenced to stand in the pillory etc. was brought in the Pallace yard at Westminster together with the pillory but by perticular order the pillory was nether

[1] Germane the Flanderkin was John Jermain or Germaine, who was made a baronet after he married the Duchess in 1701. A divorce was only secured by the Duke in 1700. Germaine was a man of no education, and was said to be the son of a soldier in the Life Guards of William II of Orange by a mother who was the mistress of that prince. He was born in 1650, was very handsome and came to England in 1688.

[2] Robert Young (1657–1700), forger. He had been in Newgate for two years, and while there had invented a sham plot to restore James II in which he pretended Marlborough and others were implicated. The scheme, though succeeding temporarily, was discovered and he was imprisoned in the King's Bench.

set up nor hee exposed at that time. the occasion wee shall know hereafter. Wee have had excessive cold weather for some tyme in so much as the Thames begun to freeze but the frost is gon off and yisterday wee had great raines. Major-General Ludlow[1] dyed lately in Switzerland. As many persons of quallity have dyed of late suddainly here so I understand they have don in Devonshire.

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This day sevenight in the night certain Ruffins broke into the house of Mr. Johnson[2] the Lady Russells Chaplyn, who in King James tyme underwent almost the same punishment with Dr. Oates, and assarscinated him in his bed, wounded him but the people of the house crying out the Watch prevented murder.

December 11th 1692

I have this day caused to bee delivered to the Exeter Carrier A Box (directed to yourselfe neer Torrington) wherein are all things you last wrote for which I hope will come safe unto your hands. The Parliament have bin most part of this weeke taken up about the publick affaires of the Nation. They have adjusted the sum to bee given being £4 millions 7 hundred 1,000 but have not yet fallen upon the maner of raising it. Topham their Serjeant is dead and one Mr. Grigg is to succede him as I heare. This weeke hath bin boystrous and Tempestùous for the most part and hath had its sutable effects on mens minds for there have bin 3 or 4 duells fought here within 3 or 4 dayes, viz: The Lord of Banbury[3] fought with his Brother in law Captaine Lawson and

[1] The last of the regicides.

[2] Samuel Johnson (1649–1703). Had been Chaplain to Lord William Russell. He had been pilloried and whipped in 1686.

[3] Charles Knollys (1662–1740), styled 4th Earl of Banbury. This duel in which he killed Captain Philip Lawson led to his petitioning the House of

killed him and is now on his Tryall at the Old Bayly. also one Young a young Clerk fought with another Clerk one Graham of Cliffords Inn. the later was killed and yisterday the Lord Mohan[1] fought with a player and killed him. Thursday night a fire happened in Whitecross Street in London and burnt down three houses. I am told that 15 Smiths were seized at once in Kent Street in Surry working on Instruments to breake houses and clipping and coyning of mony. The Comons have bin upon the miscariage in the Descent and have ordered a Comittee to inquire after the perticular persons that were the occasion and one great man was hinted at on whose behalfe Sir Edward Seymour made an elaborat speech in the Comittee. what wilbe the result wee yet know not. In my next I will send you a Bill.

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Wee heare from Plymouth that one of our men of war hath taken one of King James privateers of 40 guns and 200 men all English and Irish and also Letters of Intelligence with them.

December 17th 1692

The treason bill in which was a clause for securing the Kings person and the Government was by 25 voices rejected. Wee heare that Sir William Pritchard Aldeman of London is dead but whether it bee true I know not. Our

Lords for Trial by his Peers. This was refused on the ground that he had no right to the title. The Banbury Peerage case is still a leading case. Charles Knollys' father and uncle were said not to be the children of the 1st Lord Banbury but of Lord Vaux, Lady Banbury's lover. From 1641–1811 the question was continually raised.

[1] Charles Mohun, 5th Baron (1675?–1712), duellist. This was his first recorded duel. The player was William Mountford, and Lord Mohun was arrested for causing his death but acquitted by his peers in 1693.

Middlesex Justices tooke bayle for the Lord Mohon who is charged with one Captaine Hill to bee concerned in the killing of Munford the player. The Lord Cheefe Justice Holt was very angry with the Justices and issued out his warrant for the retaking of his Lordship but nether hee nor Hill are to bee found. It was a great sessions and 20 condemned to dye. there was on Thursday last a motion for the bringing in a bill to raise a million of mony: every one that puts into the banck for that purpose is to receive 7 p. cent. for his life and as the lives dye to the survivors to the last man to have all the Interest and when the last life is dead the principall to dye with him and the project takes with the Comons they having accepted the Bill.

December 24th 1692

Its reported that the French are making great preparations for a suddaine discent on England. There was lately a conference betwixt the 2 houses of parliament touching the miscariages about our discent and, upon the whole, Admirall Russell came off with flying colours and much reputation in his management of affaires. The Comons yisterday adjourned till Wednesday But before the Adjournment they past a selfe denying vote, viz: that no member, after as I take it 3rd or 4th of February shall accept of any office from the court[1]: if hee doe hee is ipso facto to leave the house and another to bee chosen. There was on Wednesday last a New Common Councell for the Citty of London, chosen much like the former, if any odds bettered.

January 28th 1692(3)

I have bin at the cane shop and made an essay for a cane. I wish you had mentioned the length, for canes being exceed-

[1] The Place Bill: thrown out in the Lords.

ing deare the shorter will come much cheaper so that I have respited the buying one till Mr. Pynes[1] returne because I would have his advice therein. On Wednesday last were burnt by the comon Hangman according to the order of the House of Commons the 2 books, one Licenced by Bohon, the title thereof King William and Queen Mary, King and Queen by conquest etc., the other the Bishop of Salisburys pastorall letter in which the passage is asserted for which the former was censured. The million act called the project for advancing such a sum by way of Annuity is passed by the King. Yisterday being our Execution day many Highwaymen were executed at Tiburne And Whitney[2] the Ringleader was caryed in a cart with them but had his repreeve at the Gallows and brought back on Horseback behind one of the Sherriffs officers. On Thursday morning about one of the clock A Dyers house in the Strand neer litle Drury lane was burnt down and 3 or 4 persons burnt to death in their beds.

February 4th 1692(3)

The Lords have continued the Lord Mohons Tryall till this day when they brought him in not guilty, 69 against 14. The Grand Highwayman Whitney[2] notwithstanding his reprieve was executed at Cowcrosse neer Smithfeild Wednesday last. The House of Comons have againe read and comitted the Bill for a Tryenniall Parliament. The Lord Banbury hath removed his Indictment from the Sessions to Westminster Hall. Your cane cost 18*s.* 0*d.*

[1] This is evidently the Mr. Edward Pyne of East Down who married Dorothy Coffin, Mr. Richard Coffin's daughter, from whom the Pine-Coffin family now of Portledge descend.

[2] James Whitney. The Newgate Calendar places his execution as late as December 19th 1694.

February 11th 1692(3)

I hope er these come to your hands you have received what was sent by Mr. Pyne. The Act for the Triennial Parliament is passed the Lords as well as the Commons. The lord Mohon is brought in not Guilty by the lords. I heare the House of Commons were upon a pole Bill for 12*d.* a head for every individuall person in England and that such as could not pay the parish was to pay for them. more Highwaymen are taken and brought to Newgate. Wee have a strange distemper that of late yeares raigns much amongst us which was rare amongst our Ancesters but some are of opinion that it was more frequent then but not so much taken notice of. It is a Diabethes or pissing disease. Some languish away in it sooner then others. some have had it upon them 2 or 3 yeares. I met with one that told mee hee had had it 2 yeares and thought it would end his dayes. the lord Brooke dyed of it in 6 weekes sicknes. Wee have bin guilty of strange sins and God sends amongst us strange distempers. I was thoughtfull as if I had a spice of it myselfe but if so tyme will discover.

February 18th 1692(3)

The King went Thursday last to Portsmouth. The Parliament its thought wilbe prorogued or Adjourned a weeke hence and the King will make all hast imaginable for Flanders and its sayd there wilbe some Reformation in our Leiftenancy and Magistracy here before the King departs. Mr. Young[1] the parson yt hath bin formerly convicted for forgeries and stood in the pillory according to sentence, stood 3 tymes this weeke in the pillory for forging writings and endeavoring to bring the Bp. of Rochestr and others in a plott against the Government.

[1] See letter of November 26th 1692 and note, *ante*.

February 25th 1692(3)

The King is shipping away his forces for Flanders. Yisterday in the House of Commons was debated the affaires of Ireland and severall Irish gent and others of quallity haveing represented the Government there to have bin ill managed, the House have voted an Addresse to the King in order to an amendement. Yisterday morning was taken up a man in Ecclesiasticall vestments out of the Thames dead, being wounded in severall parts of his body. some say its the Schoolmaster of Camberwell. Inclosed are the Gazets and in one of them you will read of the dreadfullest Earthquake in Scicily that ever was heard of in any part of the world.

March 5th 1692(3)

The snow is very great here and I am affrayd worser in the remoter parts in the cuntry because wee receive our post letters on the day wee send them from hence.

The Circuits by proclamation are put off to other days than what were first appointed by reason of the extreamity of the weather. The West Circuit begins at Dorchester and ends at Winchester. it is appointed for Devon 27 March. There is a discourse as if wee should speedily have a Lord Chancelor. Two ships were lately burnt but of no great value. one a merchants ship here and a fireship at Plymouth.

This weeke there was an Ellection of a Burgess for London in the place of Sir William Turner deceased the candidates were the Lord Mayor, Sir Wm. Ashurst and Sir Thomas Stamp. between the 2 first there was a pole and the Lord Mayor stands.

March 25th 1693

Some alterations the King hath made in places of trust. Sir John Trenchard Secretary of State in the roome of the

lord Sydney and Sir John Sommers Atturny Generall is made lord Keeper of the Great Seale and Sir — Trever the Solliciter is made Atturny General and Mr. Ward[1] of the Exchequr who married Mr. Papillion's daughter is made Solliciter and Mr. Russell one of the Earl of Bedfords sons, as its sayd, is made Treasurer of the Chamber at Whitehall being the place Sir Rowland Gwyn had. His Majesty went hence yisterday for Harwich about 5 in the morning but the winde is against him. There is a discourse of three Dukes to bee made, viz: the Earls of Bedford, Devonshire, and Carmarthen and that Col. Talmarsh shall be Governor of the Isle of Weight and the lord Cutts of Portsmouth. Wee have had very stormy weather these 3 or 4 days of winde rayne Haile and snow. Inclosed are the Gazets.

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Wee heare of a prodigious whale come ashoare at Boston in Lincolnshire.

Endorsed May 6th 1693

Wee have news that 700 Switzers had deserted the King of France and tendered their service to King William. A ship laden with wyne was this weeke blown up in the Thames: the master and some others killed.

May 14th 1693

As in my last so now I repeat the preparations that are making for this expedition. Our Navy is at sea and the Dutch ready to joyne us and our Army ready to goe into the Feild in Flanders. Wee continew our preparations for the Discent. I know not whether I mentioned in my last that Mr. Noseworthy of Cornwall was taken up and in custody with some others as coming from France. Whereas one

[1] Sir Edward Ward (1638–1714). Subsequently chief Baron of the Exchequer.

Captain Winter was condemned the last sessions for killing a man in a Ryott 12 moneths since in White Fryers and having gotton a Repreive for some dayes in order to a pardon the Lord Mayor and Aldermen have bin at Whitehall to desire the Queen that hee may bee executed and the busines being debated in Councell Its sayd Hee wilbe executed neer the place where the fact was comitted.

Wee have faire weather but not very warme.

May 19th 1693

Tuesday last was executed Captain Winter in Fleetstreet at the request of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen at the expiration of the Repreeve which was for ten dayes and the other two also that had a repreive, viz: Mr. Midleton for clipping and Mr. Martin for house breaking are to bee executed at Tiburne on Munday next. Its thought the winde being changed our Fleet is hindred from going out at sea. Its sayd the French are about to beseech Hedelberge. Wee have now blessed bee God seasonable weather and its sayde corne is fallen in all parts of England. The Lord Keeper according to the Queens order convened the Middlesex Justices before him, willing them to put the laws against Debauchery and swearing and saboth breaking in execution which wee hope will cause a Reformation amongst us.

May 27th 1693

I received yours with the Bill for £30 on Mr. Gough which is accepted by his son the Father being in Devonshire and the mony shall be paid according to your and Mr. Pynes directions. I thank you for that part allotted to mee. I have sent all the things you wrote for (saving Mich 1690 catalogue which I cannot yet procure) to Mr. Johnson which hee hath put into his box to bee sent this day. I have bin in

great consultation with my selfe what periwigg to send since you did not give perticular order about the size. I have bin viewing the shopps both in London by the old Exchange and in the Strand and finde that short periwiggs which they call Bobbs are generally worne this summer and especially by young gents so that I could not meet with one large periwigg of faire haire ready made fitt for your sons wearing and therefore sent the short one which is very fashionable and I believe will become him. it must bee combed out before it bee worne. it cost 22*s*. but I made my bargaine that if it bee misliked and returned another must bee made and the price of this included but it must bee curled up againe presently and not worne. but if this will serve for the present against the winter if you give directions I will see that a larger and more generous one shall be made by the same Barber that made your last over whom I have some power. The News of the taking of Heidelberge was very surprizing but its sayd the relation of the great stores of provissions in it was false. On Munday last were executed the other two criminalls repreived, viz: Captaine Midleton and Mr. Martyn one for clipping the other for robbery. the Captaine of the Windsor Castle upon the Tryall aboard the Britania was acquitted but the pylot sentenced to 7 yeares Imprisonmt and to bee carried to every ship in the Fleet with his offence written and a rope about his neck. This morning in Fleet Street a gent having dropt his watch in an house of office a youth endeavored to recover it but being neer suffocated another youth his brother perceiving it and endeavoring to succor him the last was smothered to death and the first saved. There is a string in the periwigg which is to contract it as you please if too bigg. On Satturday night last many of King James declarations were scattered up and down. some of the publishers are taken and will suffer for it.

June 3rd 1693

Wee heare the French fleet consisting of 15 saile were seen not far off of Cilly. Some of those that dispersed King James his declarations are now on their Tryall at the old Bayly.

June 10th 1693

Wee heare the Two armies are almost in view of each other but wee canot heare where the French fleet are but that ours are at Bell Isle. There is an answer to King James his declaration come out written as tis sayd by Dr. Welwood the author of the observators but licencised by Mr. Secretary Trenchard. A woman of the playhouse being heard to sing a beastly Lampoon on the Queene, an officer was sent to seize her and in her lodgings were found severall of the Libells and one of her own handwriting. she was offred a pardon if she would discover the Author which refusing she was tryed and sentenced to bee exposed on the pillary at 3 severall places. The publishers of King James declarations their Tryalls are put off till next sessions, But Anderton is condemned for high treason for printing a seditious libell against the Government. Three Judges its sayd are gon down to Worcester with a commission of oyer and Terminer to try the mutineers there. Wee had some feares a fortnight since wee should have had some such trouble here amongst the Ribin weavers and for that purpose wee have had ever since strict guards but blessed bee God wee are now in these parts very quiet.

June 18th 1693

Yisterday was executed Anderton the printer at Tyburne with other criminalls and Mrs. Lettice the player stood upon the pillory in the Strand for singing and publishing a beastly Lampoone against the Government. Wee are in-

formed that the Lord Scarborough[1] is come from Flanders in order to manage the discent. The armies continew close by each other but no engagement that wee yet heare of. Wee heare that our Turkey fleet is safe which it was supposed a squadron of the French Fleet lay in wayt for.

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They write from Flanders that our King hath gained a Hill over against the enemies camp that wilbe of great advantage and that Count Horn is turned out of favour. 6 Highwaymen were taken neer Oxford and put into Oxford Goale. two men lately killed themselves, viz: one Mr. Greenvill agent and Mr. Hampdens Coachman the first shot himselfe: the 2nd hanged himselfe.

December 9th 1693

The most remarkable passage since my last is the acquittall of the Admiralls by the House of Commons. The Trieniall Bill is almost ready in the House of Lords to bee sent down to the Commons. Wee have yet no new Secretary. We have much robbing on the Highwaye and sevrall Highwaymen taken. One Mr. Turner, son to Sir Edward Turner, that was Speaker of Parliament and Lord Cheefe Baron in King Charles 2nds tyme, who lives by us last weeke killed his man and was yisterday tryed and found guilty of manslaughter. The blow on his head was given in a sudden passion and the Lord Chief Justice Treby spoke much on his behalfe at the Sessions. the price of corne still advanceth here. Tuesday last about 300 persons Lords, gents, and others dyned at the Lord Mayors and sent before hands every one severall guinies. Just now wee have news that our Norway fleet with two men of war for their convoy are taken by the French. Whether true or not tyme will determine.

[1] Richard Lumley, 1st Earl of Scarborough (d. 1721), fought at the Boyne in 1692.

December 16th 1693

The House of Comons have voted an addition to our Army 15 Regiments of foot 6 of Horse and 2 of Dragoons And are busy in finding out wayes and meanes to rayse mony both for sea and land. the tax wilbe very great. The King hath put the Admiralls out of all their places and the House of Lords are also taking them into examanation. provisions here begin to bee very deare. Our News Letters give us an account of a Fleet of Colliers cast away the last storme on your coasts. I pray God the News bee not true. There is leave againe given for a Bill for Registering of Lands etc. to bee brought into the House. The Parliament have voted a tax on salt. We have at this time seasonable weather.

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This day Articles of High Treason were exhibited in the House of Comons against Sir Charles Porter and — Conisby by the Lord Coots and I am told that at the same time some misdemeaners were layd to the charge of Sir Richard Reynolds.

December 22nd 1693

Yisterday upon the 3rd reading of the Trieniall bill the Comons voted the throwing of it out of the house and so rejected it accordingly. On St. Thomas day last a new Common Councell was chosen for our citty and they accordingly have ellected men for the most part very fitt for that Imployment. Wednesday last being Execution day was a sad instance. 2 young gents, the sons of Col. Breame, a gent of quallity of Kent (their father dead), were caried in a coach to Tyburne and there executed for killing an Alehouse keeper in Fleet street. Here is of late a great discourse touching a kind of miracle that cured a lame french girle about 13 yeares old – the case thus – the girle when about

halfe yeare old dropt out of her fathers arms and put her thigh and one toe out of joynt which could never bee replaced. On a Lords day in November as she was in a deformed posture hobling along the streets the boys mockt her at which being disgusted when she returned home acquainted her mistriss therewith. she advised her to beare it patiently for it could not be holpen. presently after the girle looking into the New Testament and reading that place where our Saviour performed such cures sayd she its a wonder those Jews would not all beleive our Saviour and come and bee healed, if hee were now on the earth I would goe to him and make no doubt hee would heale mee as hee did some in those dayss. upon which at the very instant her bonds snapt which was heard by the people in the roome and from that time her dislocated limbs are set and she perfectly well. the Bishop of Salisbury and many persons of quallity have been to see her. I spoke with a surgeon who was sent by Doctor Ridgely, an eminent Dr. of 80 yeares old, to see her and the surgeon gives this account according to the relation and beleives it. you will see in the last Gazet an advertisment that the Relation wilbe printed.

December 30th 1693

Many here are taken with suddaine distempers as in your parts. The Earle of Bedford hath bin ill and another Nobleman whose name I have forgotten. 20 stately horses worth about one thousand pounds were lately seized, consigned as its sayd for France and are now at the Mews. Prince Lewis of Baden[1] is dayly expected here, St. James being appointed for his personall reception and Somerset house for his retinew. last night about one in the morning broke out a fire

[1] Prince Lewis of Baden (1655–1707), the victor of Grosswardein ('Great Warridon'). He came to England to discuss plans with William for the 1694 campaign.

which began in a Lynendrapers house in Newgate street and burnt through into Paternoster Row. The drapers house is burnt down to the ground and three houses more very much damaged.

The Earls of Westmorland and Warrington are both dead and just now comes news that a Squadron of our men of Warr have taken 12 Danes and Swedish ships laden with corne and masts and other tackling for shipping and brought them into Dover road which were bound for France and that a part of the said squadron were in pursuit of 30 more of the said Fleet being freighted with the same lading.

January 13th 1693(4)

The Commons have laid the same tax on lands that was set the last yeare but its to continue for a yeare and halfe. The Lords have acquited the Admiralls. The Lord Macklesfeild is dead. Munday last 3 highway men were taken, pursued in the streets by the people, one was taken in Holborne by us. The Prince of Baden is enterteyned every day at some Noblemans table or other. Satturday night last was a great enterteynmt made for him at Kensington where was dancing and gaming and a great supper and banquetts of sweetmeats all common to such as were admitted to bee spectators and I was informed by one that was present that hee supposed there could not bee lesse than one thousand persons but it was 5 of ye clock in the morning before some of them could get home. Wee have now a very sharp season of Frost and snow.

January 20th 1693(4)

The House of Commons yisterday setled the mony Bill, not as I last wrote for a yeare and half, but for a yeare. The tax to bee as the last only with some new measures as to rais-

ing it. Also they have voted it lawfull for any to trade to the East Indies not prohibited by Act of Parliament. Since my last a sad accedent befell Mr. Honywood Knight of the Shire for Essex who being under some distraction, those which attended him being absent, hanged himself in his lodgings in Cheapside. Wee have had much snow and frost but now open weather.

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The widdow of the Earle of Strafford once Lord Deputy of Ireland is lately dead. The Earle of Bedford is recovered. There is a proclamation out against Sir James Mountgomery[1] who being in custody for High Treason made his escape with his two Centinells.

January 27th 1693(4)

The King hath passed the mony Bill and some others but refused the self-denying Bill of Excluding Courtiers in Parliament etc, which the Commons have not well resented and since passed two votes, one that those that councelled the King to refuse the passing of this Bill were enimies to the King and Government, another vote was for a Representation of the matter to bee drawn up and tendred to the King and a Comittee is appointed to prepare the same. I heare that the Lord Hollis, grandson to the Lord Densell Hollis,[2] a hopefull young peere is lately dead. also Judge Dolbin[3] dyed suddainly of an Appoplexy Thursday last as hee was putting on his robes to goe to Westminster.

[1] Sir James Montgomery, 10th Baronet (d. 1694). He had been imprisoned for writing against the Government. He got to Paris safely, where he died.

[2] Denizil Holles, 1st Baron (1599—1680). He was second son of the 1st Earl of Clare. Was brother-in-law to Strafford. Supported the 'Grand Remonstrance.'

[3] Sir William Dolben (d. 1694), puisne judge of the King's Bench.

February 3rd 1693(4)

Since my last The King hath given an Answer to the Representation. The Commons at first seemed not to resent it well but now are in a temper of acquiessing. Wee heare that some alteration is made in the Admiralty lately some put out and others put in their roome. Wee have had two or three stormy and tempestuous days and feare it may have damaged our shipping. Inclosed are the Gazets.

February 10th 1693(4)

The King hath lately passed 3 bills, viz: that of the Royall mines, another a tax upon salt, and a private Bill. Wee heare there hath bin some little disturbance in Ireland by some Rebells there but soone quelled and that some of them have bin since tryed and executed and that some popish Bishops had a hand in it. Serjeant Aires was to have filled up the vacancy of the deceased Judge but now its supposed another will have it. There hath bin a great alteration made here in the Leiftenancy and its sayd much for the better in respect of the security of the Government. 3 men not far from us, two of them House Keepers, drinking togeather in a Taverne, one of them fell suddainly sick and dyed, another fell distracted and is put into a mad house, what became of the other I know not. The Prince of Baden is not well. one of his retinew was lately arrested by some tradesmen, of which complaint being made, orders is given to the Atturny Generall to prosecute the offender.

February 17th 1693(4)

The House of Commons yisterday entring upon a debate about mony given for secret services and the Lord Falkland a member of the house being under an accusation was voted to bee comitted to the Tower. Its sayd the French are under such straits for want of provission that will necessitate them

to begg for peace. The Commons have fallen upon many excellent points lately whereof one is that there bee a middle punishment for highwaymen betwixt hanging and acquitting, viz: exposed to labour and that workhouses be set up for that purpose and also for imploying Beggars and poor people. The Prince of Baden is gone for Holland.

February 24th 1693(4)

Sunday night last happened a fire the end of St. Nicholas lane next Lumbard Street which burnt down about 3 houses and did much damage to 2 or 3 more. my wifes brother who is one of the Masters in Chancery suffred in those that were shattered being the Landlord. This being the Sessions weeke the French parson that preached the seditious sermon was tryed for High Treason but there being not so exact proofe against him as the Law requireth hee was brought in Not Guilty. The Lord of Baths[1] tryall with the Dutchess of Albemarle[2] is over in the House of Lords and they have given Judgment for the Earle of Bath. On Munday last upon the Lord Falklands petition the House of Commons discharged him out of the Tower.

It is just now reported that Letters are come from Ireland which affirme that part of the Castle of Lymrick falling, fired the store of Gunpowder there, being 200 Barrells which hath spoyled almost the whole towne and 100 persons killed and about the same number wounded.

[1] John Grenville, Earl of Bath (1628–1701).

[2] Elizabeth Cavendish (d. 1734), 'The Mad Duchess,' daughter of the Duke of Newcastle, widow of 2nd Duke of Albemarle and second wife of Ralph Duke of Montague. This litigation arose out of a promise made by Charles II in 1661 to Lord Bath that if General Monk (1st Duke of Albemarle) died without issue Lord Bath (who was a cousin of General Monk) should be made Duke of Albemarle. A good deal more is said about further trials between these parties in later letters. The litigation lasted from 1691 to 1698.

March 3rd 1693(4)

The Lord Shrewsbury[1] is againe made Secretary of State with Sir John Trenchard. There hath as I am informed been made some considerable alteration in the Commission of the peace for Middlesex as well as the Leiftenancy. The House of Commons are taking notice of their absent members and it seems are resolved to have them present againe before the end of the session. There (have) been some Highway men taken here this weeke one of them by trade a plummer living by us. last night was buryed at the Temple Col. — Crooke once famous in Devonshire. a freind of myne was at the Funerall. Thursday night between six and seaven of the clock, I having by the favour of the Treasurer of Lyons Inn the use of some old chambers there gratis to put some books in, when I came to unlock the dore and a youth being with mee with some things I had bought I could not open the dore forasmuch as the Latch was depressed and kept down so that I was faine to have the dore broken open by a smith. but when I came in I met with a youngster that was gotton in how I canot tell and kept mee out what his design was God knows. hee was a young clerk to one of the House.

March 10th 1693(4)

There is but little remarkable since my last. Ye 4 Pyrate Captains condemned at the Marshallsey were executed according to sentence at Execution Dock on the Thames side. The Lord Mayor of London hath bin very ill but is now on recovery. The Citty are collecting apace the £200,000 which they promised to lend his Majesty when hee

[1] Charles Talbot, 12th Earl and only Duke of Shrewsbury (1660–1718). He vacillated in allegiance between James and William and had hesitated for some time before consenting to take office.

sent to them. Yisterday was convened before the House of Commons a Parson of Essex for saying that Sir — Marsham one of the Knights of that shire was a pentioner for which hee was ordered to bee taken into custody and so remayns.

March 17th 1693(4)

Thursday was a hearing in the House of Lords upon an Appeale betwixt the Bishop of Exeter and Mr. Hele quondam Sherriffe about the presenting a minister to Poole or Potlemouth, I know not which but it went against Mr. Hele, Mr. Hodder being his Incumbent.

Wee heare our Virginia fleet are come home.

Wee have had a dangerous feaver in these parts amongst us for some tyme which hath suddainly taken away many persons of quallity, tho the weekly Bills as to their sums have not been very high.

March 24th 1693(4)

There hath bin lately a fire at Nether-Haven a litle towne neer the Devizes in Wiltshire that hath burnt down almost the whole towne and it being a reputed place for malt, much of that comodity was there distroyed by the fire. The King met the Parliament yisterday and passed many Acts but only 6 publique ones, amongst which was that for the London orphans and another of Impost upon salt etc. hee also made a short speech wishing them to perfect the mony bills because of his speedy going to the Campaygne and also wished them to consider of the mony due to those that were proprieters of the passport ships for Ireland when that expedition was and seemed to presse it with much earnestnes. Also yisterday the House of Commons made an offer that upon the East India Companies paying 6 hundred thousand pounds they should have their old Charter confirmed and they to repay themselves out of their Customs.

March 31st 1694

I suppose the news of the dreadfull storme at Gibleater mentioned in the Gazet came to you before these. one Sir— Boveree an eminent merchant of London had £20,000 in that fleet and its sayd 3 sons and hee being ill before, the news hastened his death.

Alderman Thorowgood is dead since my last.

The Commons after all the Debates about Stockbridge yisterday cast out the Bill – also that about the East India Company mentioned in my last is cast aside.

April 6th 1694

Wee have received ill news from York, viz: that a fire lately happening there hath burnt down the best part of one of their cheefest streets there, viz: the Paved street, the damage exceeding great. Admirall Aylmer[1] is made one of the Comissioners of the Navy. Wee have news from Shrewsbury of a horrid murder there comitted on the body of one Captaine Brown who hath an estate there and not long since lived at Sea-Hoe in London. The murder was comitted by 3, one of them his servant, for the love of £20. its sayd an apparition made some signs of this murder to some of his freinds but the body being found by accedent in digging in a Hopyard where 2 of the murderers were at work, they were so struck, as, notice being taken, they were convened before a magistrate and they confessed the fact. also this weeke a son of Sir William Wake being seized in Bloomsbury for robbing on the Highway, he shot the Cunstable into the Groan that seized him which wound is supposed to bee mortall but the Criminall is in Newgate.

April 14th 1694

This weeke Mr. Wilson,[2] the Son of one Mr. Wilson of

[1] Matthew Aylmer, Baron Aylmer (d. 1720). [2] Beau Wilson.

Leistershire, his father a man of about £200 p. An, – some yeares since hee was an Ensigne in Ireland or Flanders but hath lived 4 yeares in London at the rate of £4000 p. An. to the great wonder of all the towne. Now this young Mr. Wilson was this weeke killed in Bloomsbury Square in a duell by one Mr. Laws[1] a Scotchman, who is in Newgate. Wilson is the subject of the generall chatt of the towne, hee (was) no Gamster nether was hee known to keepe women company and it canot bee yet discovered how hee came to live at so prodigious an extravagancy, but more of this in my next. Its sayd that our Cales and Canary fleets are safe arived and wee had news that the Berkly Castle was safe, but its now againe doubted.

April 21*st* 1694

Cyprean of the Oxford Edition is very scarce. I have enquired of many Booksellers for it and canot meet with it but I have hopes of meeting with it at Mr. Chiswells or Mr. Litleboroughs where I have not yet bin but by accedent I met with one lately printed at Amsterdam from the Oxford Edition in fol. and I am told that it hath all of that Edition in it. if so I beleive I may have it a good pennyworth but the Master who was my acquaintance was not at home. let me know your mynde if you (will have) this of Amsterdam Edition. I was at Mr. Bennets and they say the 2nd part is not yet come from Oxford of Dr. Wallis to Mr. Bamfeilds booke but they say they are confident it wilbe out a weeke hence and then I will get those 2 parts and both Mr. Bamfeilds for you. Wee have had a weeke of such hot and faire weather the like not before known in Aprill these many yeares. Mr. Laws the Scotsman that killed Mr. Wilson, of whom I formerly mentioned, is this Sessions convicted of

[1] Law escaped from Newgate after being found guilty of murder and was the founder of the Mississippi Scheme in France.

murder but Mr. Wake that killed the Cunstable in Bloomsbury his tryall is put off till next Sessions. Wee heare this day that the French have taken our Forts and Castles in Ginny. also that they have taken 10 or 12 of our Transport shipps that caried over the soldiers to Flanders as they were coming back to fetch more. The Parliament is yet sitting but its supposed will rise within a few dayss. The pole Act with some others lately passed.

April 29th 1694

I have now no hopes of getting the Oxford Edition of St. Cyprian till some Auction. Dr. Wallis 2nd part to Mr. Bamfeilds is not yet come from Oxford but they dayly expect it. you will finde by last Gazet that the Parliament were prorogued Wednesday last to 18 of Sept. and there you will also see the Bills past. The King went that day to Gravesend to imbarque for Holland but the wind changing returned next day to Kensington where hee now is. There is talk of some changes that wilbe in places of Trust both in the Treasury – Admiralty and at the Custome house and some new Nobles created but of this more in my next. Wee have news that about 40 saile of French men of warr were seen on our Channell. Some of Col. Levestons Regiment of Dragoons againe mutined for want of their pay as they were to bee shipped but wee heare they are appeased.

* * * * *

A gent on Thursday last that came lately out of the cuntry told a freind of his my acquaintance and in my hearing this passage, viz: That the last lords day in his Journy to London hee being at a gents house in Bucks went with him to his parish church where hee heard a very good sermon on these words 'wherefore walk circumspectly etc.' – and that in the sermon hee gave them caution to take care of being deluded etc. this gent discoursing at diner about the

sermon his freind told him the occasion of the sermon was remarkable. For that another minister of the Church of England not far from the place reputed always to bee a sober man had lately pretended to vissions and declared that it was revealed to him that at Whitsunday our Saviour would personally appeare on the earth which would cause a strange change etc. but there is this very odd circumstance. hee advised the people to provide for a Judaicall sacrifice of oxen sheepe etc. and sayd this as a precept was also revealed to him. now this is contrary to Scripture and this gent sayth that 6 or 7 families of this ministers congregation that preached this sermon were gon with their goods and treasure to this prophets place of residence. I have made inquiry and others doe affirme that they have heard of this enthusiast.

May 5th 1694

His Majesty is gone againe towards the water side in order to imbarque for Flanders and wee heare hee is at Deale. Things at this present with us seeme to cary a good aspect. Its sayd that the French are not so forward in their preparations this yeare as formerly, that they are reduced to great exegencies, that there is some misunderstanding of late betwixt the King and the Dauphin his sonn, that there are great disorders at Constantinople, that the French Ambassador is rejected upon the account that the French had made some offers of peace with the Emperor and excluded therein the Turk. The Earle of Bedford is made Duke. Wee have lately taken 6 or 7 vessells of corn from the French and considerable changes there hath bin lately as to persons in places of trust. a fire lately happened in Thames Street which hath burnt Joyners Hall and severall houses adjacent.

May 11th 1694

The King is Imbarqued for Flanders and wee hope

is safely arrived there. The people talk much of a speedy discent into France – Mr. Lawes that killed Wilson was arraigned at the Kings bench bar upon the Appeale to which hee hath pleaded and is to bee tryed the next Terme. Some discourse there is of a peace that wilbe proposed. One Mr. Phillips was lately seized in Coven Garden and put into Newgate for High Treason but what the circumstances of the fact are or of what quallity the man is I as yet know not. Wee have had for two or 3 dayes some seasonable showers of raine. Inclosed are the Gazets. I am at this tyme in much hast and therefore begg your pardon.

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Newes is come of the Kings certaine landing at the Haague on Munday night last but the winde being against him hee was forced to venter about 3 leagues in a Boat.

May 19th 1694

Wee have lately received very good news from sea, viz: the Admirall Russell meeting with 35 French shipps whereof 2 or 3 were men of Warr the other fraighted with provisions and store for their Navy were all distroyed saving two which were taken but the men escaped to land, and that the Spanish Ostenders had met with about 12 more laden with corne bound for Dunkirk which they have taken. I heare that Mr. Freke[1] that writt the Socinian booke was tryed this day and that the Court had fined him £200 and to make his recantation before the Courts in Westminster Hall and to remaine in prison till this bee performed.

May 26th 1694

I was informed yisterday that the Queen had an expresse that Admirall Russell with the Fleet was at St. Helens by Portsmouth. all the soldiers were this weeke shipped off

[1] William Freke (1662–1744), a mystical writer. He proclaimed himself 'The Great Elijah' some years later.

from Portsmouth. Wee heare dayly of great and unspeakable misseries the French are exposed to for want of provission. Wee heare of many strange accedents that have happened as to Suicides this week. The Earle of Fivet,[1] an antient man cut his throat. Col: Wm. Legg brother to the Lord Dartmouth as is sayd hath don the like, and the Organist of New Colledge in Oxford hath killed himselfe by ripping up his own Bowells. Its said the Lord Faulkland is dead of the smallpox.

Just now they say that Col: Leg hath not cut his throat but that it is one Captaine Clifford. They also add that 100 ships of Danes and Swedes and Poles laden with provissions for France are by our men of War brought in as prizes into our ports.

June 2nd 1694

It is taken for granted with us that our Fleet are gon off to sea and that wee shall speedily heare of some great attempt performed by them. Here is a report that the Bp. of Hereford was present and caused to bee rased and obliterated an Inscription which was on the Tombe of Collonell Birch[2] some while since decd which is like to cause great animosities. Wee have very seasonable weather which promisses plenty, God grant our sins doe not make a frustration. I heare there is an Irishman a Roman Catholick tryed this session at the old Bayly for pretending to discover a plott that some had to assassinate the King, but it was proved that the booke in which the designe was written and hee pretended hee lately found, had been in his possession above a

[1] Robert Spencer, Lord Teviot (1628–1694), was only 65 when he committed suicide. Evelyn speaks of him as 'very soberly and religiously inclined.'

[2] John Birch (1616–1691), a Presbyterian colonel – a moderate Cromwellian, took part in Restoration and represented Hereford in Parliament.

yeare and that hee did this to get a litle mony so that hee was fined £200 and to stand 3 tymes in the pillary.

June 9th 1694

I make no doubt but you have heard of the defeat that was reported the Spaniards should receive from the French at Barcalonia but the Gazet speaking not fully to the purpose wee have some hopes that it may not bee altogeather as bad as was reported. at the same tyme wee had advice likewise of loss of 8 merchant shipps at the Straights 4 sunk and 4 taken which is feared to bee true. Our Fleet is once more at sea. Some say Admirall Russell is gon to the straights and the squadron comanded by Sir Cloudsly Shovell conveys our soldiers taken in at Portsmouth to land in France but by reason of the long notice the French have made so good preparation that its thought what by us wilbe attempted wilbe effected with the greater difficulty. Wee have very seasonable weather and a prospect to much plenty. Inclosed are the Gazetts.

* * * * *

Sir Charles Porter and Sir Richard Reynell in their passage to Ireland were attacked by a French man of war and escaped with much difficulty. 3 of their men killed as wee have now news. Our former news was that they were taken and carryed into France.

June 16th 1694

I make no doubt but you have heard of our ill successe in attempting to Attack Brest. Generall Talmash is since dead of his wounds And wee have some whispers as if wee had received a defeat in a late Engagement in Flanders. affaires at this present hang cloudy, God preserve our Grand Fleet that is gon to the Straights.

June 23rd 1694

Wee have but litle news from sea or land since our defeat when wee attempted to make an Incursion at Breast, only its this day reported that six hundred Switzers have deserted the French and come over to us. The busines of ensuring mony on the Bank takes very much, 3 hundred thousand pounds being paid in 2 days since. Its sayd that a search being made at one Mr. Throgmartons house in Hertfordshire for some disafected persons to the Government there was found one that lately escaped out of the Messengers hands and being now retaken the people of the house rescued him, so that Mr. Throgmorton and others concerned are sent for to bee brought up to London.

June 30th 1694

Wee have received ill news the which I suppose has bin dispersed in your parts of Disbaths getting into Dunkirk with corne shipps and sinking 2 Dutch men of Warr and taking another. The relation hath hung in dispeute for some tyme but now begins to bee credited.

Col. Parker and Crosby that were some tyme since taken and committed were the later end of the Terme by Grand Jury's bill for Middlesex found guilty of Treason but will not bee tryed till next Terme. also the Triall on the Appeale against Law that killed Wilson is put off till next Terme. The Act for taxing paper and parchment by reason of its intricate penning hath caused much busle with us and the Judges are now consulting to put out some explanatory rules. one Mr. Cary that was partner with Sir Thomas Cooke and one Mr. Guy a Bookeseller were chosen sherriffs but upon their refusall and desire to Fyne there is to bee speedily another election. There is a dangerous feaver still lurking in these parts. There is now discourse that the French King solicits the Dane and Swede to mediat for a peace.

July 7th 1694

Wee have had much strange news of late but by a side winde and not from Court. 4 foraign males have bin expected some tyme by us. I heare that one is come in and am now going out and will not seale my Letter till I know the certainty. But one Capt. Wood a prisoner which came lately from France sayth that they had news there of a fight on the Rhyne and that Prince Lewis of Baden had killed 20,000 of the French.

There hath bin (a quarrel)[1] of the society of the midle Temple against the Benchers and some indecent actions committed as throwing down the Benchers tables and locking the Hall dore and keeping them out of Commons. this hath bin represented to the Lord Chief Justice Holt and yisterday both sides were convened before his L'ship at Serjeants Inn where on hearing the matter his Lordship like a man of courage sharply reprimanded the young gents and told them hee would take care that they should bee severely prosecuted and punissed etc. All 4 males are come in but bring no considerable news only the French taking of Geroone in Catalonia.

July 14th 1694

Since my last I have made inquiry into the price of Hops, and am informed, that the price here in towne is five pounds tenn shillings a hundred and that they wilbe exceeding scarce this yeare by reason of mildeaw. There was one brought mee a specimen for a subscription to another Edition of Pooles English Synopsis with additions but it being a sheet of paper I thought it too big to inclose supposing you have the first edition but if you please to have it I will send it in my next. I suppose I shall heare from you the

[1] This famous dispute is fully described in the Records of the Middle Temple.

next weeke about the stitcht books according to my last Letter. Wee have but litle news from abroad. I saw an account from a gent in the Army to his freind here who says that our Army consists of 90 thousand foot and six and thirty thousand horse. Here hath been much trouble about the Law Act and it was talked that the Assizes would bee put off but now it seemes the Comissions for the Circuits are sealed according to the Gazet in which they were long since declared. Wee have here very good Harvest weather. about 2 yeares since A coffee woman was murdered neer Drury lane but never known by whom but its sayd that a Bayly Lying very sick sent for a minister and a woman to come to him and to the minister hee confessed that hee and the woman killed the Coffee woman. hee struck her down and the woman his associate cut her throat. The Bayliffe is since dead but the woman was then sent to Newgate.

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Its just now sayd that the Queen hath a letter that the Lord Barkly is before Deepe.[1]

July 21*st* 1694

I received yours yisterday and shall observe your directions as to the stitcht books. Mr. Ashmoles booke of the Knights of Garter is deare. there are many maps and cutts in it and a large fol. I beleive I shall scarce get it under 30*s*. if you please I will get it for you when you order mee so to doe. I am told that Hops have been lately sold for £6 a hundred but wee have had two or three dayes of rayne here and whether that have made any alteration as to the price I heare not. Yisterday Arrived to White Hall Mr. Goodwin Wharton son to the Lord Wharton[2] who came from the Lord Berkely before Haberdegrice who brought an expresse that

[1] Dieppe.

[2] Philip Wharton, 4th Baron (1613–1696).

hee left them Bombarding that towne and that halfe the towne was consumed when hee came away. it seemes they intend to doe the like to other townes on the sea coasts there being no shipps to make resistance. The feaver continues still in this towne of which is lately dead Mr. Upton of Lupton heire to Lupton who came not long since from Italy and dyed in our Neighborhood. Wee have had 3 Ellections for sherriffs and all fined. one Mr. Deagle a Woollen draper and Mr. Bolter a Grosser nephew to Sir Jo: Cutler were the last chosen. Our Sessions were great. 15 executed and about 10 more condemned but repreived. many of those that were executed were for murder. Wee have had many strange disasters within this weeke as to untimely deaths: some making away themselves and others suddainly struck by the immediate hand of God. I will only mention two because remarkable. one was neer us. A Bricklayers apprentice Sunday night last his mistris giving him victualls for his supper told him what hee could not eat if hee gave it to the Cat hee had better bee hanged, it seemes hee used so to doe, but the next morning the boy not coming out of the chamber to goe to work when they came into it they found him hanging by the neck and the Cat hanging in another cord by him both dead. And also the same day, viz: the Lords day after the Afternoons sermon a mayd formerly our servant but now lives neer the Tower coming to see us sayd that as shee came by the Thames side neer the Custom house a fellow was at work on shipboard and having a Barrell on his shoulders by some accedent the Barrell broak his neck and dyed. she sayd she saw the man. a sad example for Sabboth breakers. I intend God willing within a moneth to come into Devonshire, haveing some few houses at Plymouth, I have been on Horseback but once these 7 yeares and how I shall endure the journey I know not, but if I have oppertunity and strenght I think to make bold to wayt on

you. I never was yet in that part of the Cuntry and its not probable I may ever see Devonshire againe.

July 28th 1694

Wee heare that since our fyring of deepe and Haver de Grace French Privateers have burnt a village or two in Scotland. (Wee) heare of some disturbances in Cheshire and adjacent Counties against the Government by some gents of ye cheepest note and that neere 20 are seized and severall of them charged with High Treason.

Yisterday one Captaine Riffington killed one Mr. Dod by runing him through with his sword neer Chayring Cross.

August 4th 1694

I have this day sent by the Exeter Carier a Box directed to your selfe at Portledge neer Torrington because I suppose the (Torrington) Carrier brings it from Exeter. in the box are the sadle stirrups Girts fore paterne and crupper and black cover and Bridle. also in the same box is Mr. Coffins[1] perriwig, Ashmoles 'Order of the Garter' and Mr. Bamfeilds and Dr. Wallis their controversies bound in one vollum. As for the sadle I have as neer as I could literally observed your last directions according as you have set down the perticulars and have bin with most of the eminentest sadlers both in the Citty and suburbs. I could have bought severall sadles that looked more gaudy for a lesser price but then I must have ventured on my own head. I met with severallwith gould silver and silk trimings but none that were for your purpose with gould triming alone unless embroidred and those were very gay and highprised and was forced to fix on this which I had formerly in my eyes, but thought it too deare. I bought it of the Queens sadler neer the Pall mell.

[1] Son of Richard Coffin.

hee is reputed a very honest man but a stranger (to) mee. hee gave mee his lowest price when I first saw him but when I went againe to consummate the bargaine, thinking to have had it cheaper, hee was gon to Winchester and his servants sayd that the perticulars proposed were without the Sadlecloath. I must confess you doe not mention the sadlecloath but I am partly of the minde you implicitly intended it and they would not let mee have it under a crown addition which because I had advanced a crown beyond your commission I was loath to exceed any further supposing you may have one neerer home. Its a new sadle very good velvet and frenge but without gould or silver. as for the other furniture its fashionable but plaine as it is now worne by most gentlemen. They tell mee by reason of the warr velvet and frenge is much rissen which makes it the dearer. I hope the Box wilbe at your house by Tuesday.

The Cheshire and Lancashire gents that are seized in the cuntry are bringing up to town. there is a report, but litle credited, that the French are decamped in Flanders and left the cuntry exposed to the mercy of our army – One thing may bee remarkable to hint, viz: of a feild neer Meadston in Kent not tilled these 3 or 4 yeares which beares this yeare without mowing or sowing a faire crop of wheat and Mr. Freke that came lately from Tunbridge in my hearing sayd hee saw a crop from one root which bore 58 stalks I mean eares and that it hangs up as a monument there.

August 11*th* 1694

Wee had news yisterday which came by a side winde that Admirall Russell had fought the French and distroyed 20 of their best men of war but because the Queene had no expresse of it but this came from a ship that casually came into Dartmouth therefore the news is litle credited. The privy Councell are very busy in making inspection into the late

conspiracy against the Government in the North and its thought some wilbe exposed to publique punishment. some alterations have lately bin made in the Customes and Excise I meane as to the Comissioners. I think I mentioned it in my last. Mr. Clerk of Somersetshire a member of Parliament is a Comissioner in the Excise office. Its reported that Admirall Russells brother who was made Governor of the Barbadoes and going over in his passage was taken togeather with the ship and caried into France and some credit seems to bee given to this but no certainty.

August 18th 1694

Wee have received very ill news from Jameca that the French have lately infested it and have committed great spoiles on it. others say they are still in possession but some say they only attempted to land and were beaten off. But its agreed on all hands that they have done damage to the place and the Court Councell sate up in consultation till one in the morning Thursday night last. There is a proclamation for a Fast the 29th instant here and the 19th of Septembr in the Cuntry.

October 13th 1694

Wee have but litle foraigne News. Some say that the Turks are retreated and from Paris its sayd that the Lord Pagit[1] is dead at Constantinople. Shipps are gon for the King and some say also that some great personages are speedily going over to Holland to discourse of great affaires whether of a peace or what else is but conjecturall. our town chatt is now altogeather taken up about the business of Lotteries which immerges the discourse of forraigne affaires.

[1] William Paget, 6th Baron. This report was not true. He had been sent on to Constantinople as Ambassador in 1693 from Vienna and remained there until 1702.

Wee have a bad feaver that still continues here. The weather is this day snowy and exceeding cold. The Judges are gon down to try the gents in the North because of their living within County Palatines.

October 20th 1694

Great discourse there is about a Treaty of peace betwixt the French and confederates at the instance of the French King. Our Bills of mortallity are great, the feaver and smale pox being very rife. I am informed that Mr. Richard Morris hath offred £11000 for Bowdon by Totnes and the other estate of the Lady Gipps which is the last heire of the Giles of that place.

On Wednesday a fire broke out within a few houses of myne in Hatton Garden but blessed bee God was soon stopt.

October 27th 1694

Our King is not yet returned but wee constantly expect him. The Earle of Salisbury is dead leaving one son and care wilbe taken that hee shall be brought up in the protestant religion. The gents in the North tryed at Manchester had a faire tryall and all acquitted. The evidence on our side are much censured and as its sayd liable to punishment. The Lord Chief Baron Atkins hath resigned that place to the Queene and its sayd the Atturny Gen: Ward will succeed him in it. A notorious Highwayman one Hinton,[1] whose father was a woollendraper, is lately taken and put into Newgate and about 2 nights since 42 people in the beginning of the night in Acton rode neer Tiburne were stript by robbers on the highway and turned into a

[1] Edward Hinton (1673–1694). He is said at the age of nine to have robbed one of his sisters of 6*d*. Although he had no murders to his credit he was considered so heinous a criminal that he was tried, condemned, and executed on the same day. See letter of March 9th 1694(5).

common feild. 4, as I take it, of our East India shipps are safely arrived at the Barbados. Wee have very seasonable weather one day dry and another rayny. Inclosed are ye Gazets.

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The lord Clancarty has made his escape out of the Tower being a prisner of war there.

November 3rd 1694

Though the winde hath been twice faire for the Kings coming since provision hath been made for receiving him yet hee is not arived. And the cause is generally said to bee That some persons of great note are sent to the Hague to treat about a peace. Much robbery is comitted in and about the town by Highway men and footpadders.

November 10th 1694

The King is landed at Margarets in Kent and wilbe here this night. The Queen is gon to meet him. Our Bills of mortallity decrease much. All things are here in a quiet and good posture. There is an estate of between £2000 and £3000 p Annum fallen lately besides a great personall estate to the widdow and relict of Major Genl: Ludlow[1] who dyed in Switzerland and there being one Mr. Thomas a young man of about 30 yeares of age a Leiftenant in the Kings army who pretended clayme to some part of the estate. she hath lately marryed him shee being 62 years of age. I am not well and desire your prayers.

November 17th 1694

The King was joyfully received the last Satturday. Its sayd Mr. Secretary Trenchard declines in his health very

[1] The last of the regicides, who died in Switzerland about the end of November 1692.

much and its thought will not bee long lived. Mr. Atturny Generall Ward is talked of to bee Lord Cheefe Baron and Mr. Soliciter Trevor to bee Atturney and Mr. Hollis of Lincolns Inn to bee Soliciter.

November 24th 1694

The Arch Bp. of Canterbury dyed Thursday last. hee was seized two dayes before with the Dead palzy in halfe his body. On Thursday the Doctors gave him a vomit in the working of which hee dyed. The House of Commons were yisterday searching into the plott charged on the gents in the North as also into the management of their Tryalls and have adjourned, after hearing of some persons touching the same, to another day. The King is not well, having for some tyme been afflicted as is reported with a tertian Ague.

December 1st 1694

Yisterday was interred at St. Lawrence church by the Guild Hall where hee was Lecturer the corps of the Arch Bp. about 7 at night. hee was brought from Lambeth over London Bridge. The Bp. of Salisbury preached his funerall sermon The Mayor and Shirriff of Bristoll being here His Majesty hath knighted them. The James Gally is splitt against a rock and cast away by the unskilfullnes or carelessnes of the pilate. all the persons lost but 19 of which the Captaine is one that is saved. The King is recovered of his Ague. Mr. Secretary Trenchard is still living. The House of Commons have given two millions three hundred and eighty two thousand seaven hundred and twelve pounds for the Navy this next yeare.

* * * * *

And this day the Commons have voted two millions and a halfe for the land forces.

December 8th 1694

The King hath declared in Councell Dr. Tennison, Bp. of Lincoln to bee Archbp. of Canterbury and Dr. Stanly, Bp. of Lincoln. An Appeale is brought by the Bp. of Exeter in the busines of Dr. Bury which went for the Dr. upon arguing the speciall veredict. Its sayd that some of Admirall Russells fleet have taken from the French 17 of their Newfoundland shipps about the Straights. All things touching the Goverment goe on with much serenity.

December 15th 1694

I have seen the Theatrum Scotiæ. tis a thin fol. not much exceeding Bacons Henry 7th but larger. The cutts well don but litle of printed History in it, the cutts taking up by much the greater part of the booke. it is fourty shillings price. The Trienniall Bill is passed the House of Commons to commence in 1696 and is like to have the concurrence of the House of Lords. The land tax of 4*s.* of the pound is continued. Wee have lately taken a French ship of 45 guns but by reason of leakquage they could not bring her into port but sunk her.

December 18th 1694

I have this day inquired for St. Cyprian. The Oxford edition is very scarce. Mr. Litlebury hath the Amsterdam edition but will not take under 25*s.*, but afterwards I called upon Mr. Blake and hee tells mee hee hath one of the Oxford edition in his eye and beleives hee shall buy it within 3 or 4 dayes and if so hee sayd hee would afford it to mee for 35*s.* Camdens Britania is not yet come out.

December 22nd 1694

The King hath this day passed 2 Bills in the House of Lords, viz: that of Tunnage and poundage and the

Trienniall Bill for Parliaments and the Commons adjourned till Fryday.

December 29th 1694

Yisterday sevenight being Fryday the Queen fell ill which illness turned to the measles, St. Anthonys fire, the smale-pox and as its sayd not without some tincture of the spotted feaver of which she dyed yisterday morning being fryday morning about one of the clock to the great greif of her subjects. its sayd she wilbe buryed privately. The King is exceedingly sorrowfull for her death and removes as its sayd from Kensington this night to Arlington house by St. James' park. The Parliament met yisterday and both Lords and Commons have voted an addresse of condolence and to stand by him and assist him against all his enimies. Order is come from the Privy Councell for all persons to put themselves in the deepest mourning, long cloaks only excepted, to begin Sunday 6th January – Plays are forbidden till further order, the guards doubled at Whitehall and the watches throughout the town.

January 4th 1694(5)

This day I have sent by the Exeter Carier the Cyprian and Theatrum Scotiæ and tooke care to get them at the very lowest price as you will perceive by the Bill.[1]

The Queen lyes in state and wilbe buryed publickly about 5 or 6 weeks hence as its sayd. The Duke of Luxenburgh is certainly dead.

January 11th 1694(5)

There wilbe a great Funerall for the Queene. Its sayd

[1] Extract from Bill sent January 11th 1694(5):

Theatrum Scotiæ guilt	£1 17*s.* 6*d.*
St. Cyprian	18*s.* 0*d.*

there is an excellent Harmony in the corespondency betwixt his Majesty and the Prince and Princess of Denmark which gives great sattisfaction at this juncture to the people. Wee have sad news from the Barbadoes, there having been lately a great Harycaine in that place which hath distroyed a great many shipps laden and also don much other damage on the Island. Yisterday in the House of Commons was a cause about an ellection of a member for Lyverpole in Lancashire between one Mr. Brotherton a Councellor of Grays Inn and one Mr. Maudit. The Mayor returned Brotherton so that hee was the sitting member but the Commonalty were generally for Maudit. the House gave it against Brotherton upon which hee was presently dismissed the House and the Mayor being in town was sent for to bee taken into custody, they resenting his crime to bee very great and this as is supposed wilbe a good caution to other Corporations to prevent illegal returns. Captaine Laus that killed Wilson hath made his escape. The season is very severe and the Thames almost frozen over. There having been some unhansom and unmannerly carriage acted at Bristoll upon the news of the Queens death by some disaffected persons, orders are sent down to inquire into their misdemeaners and to punish the offenders.

10 children about the tyme of the late Thaw being upon the Thames neer Stanes, the ice breaking were all drowned and 4 of them were one man's children.

January 18*th* 1694(5)

Secretary Trenchard I heare is very ill againe. I heare the Commons are industriously sifting into the Lancashire plott. Its sayd that Captaine Laws that killed Wilson and broke out of the prison of the Kings bench, after the Appeale, is lately retaken. Its also reported there are 3 Goldsmiths of note, one of Lumbard street that are in Newgate upon the account

of clipping. Two remarkable passages happened not many dayes before the Queens death. an Eagle shot by Mr. Hart, son to Sir Percivall Hart in Kent on Christmas day last and an old Lyon refusing meat and dying a litle before the Queen. Both these I have from good hands.

January 26th 1694(5)

Its sayd the Queen wilbe buryed about a fortnight hence. The King is removed for some tyme at Richmond. there was a hearing on an Appeale from the Kings Bench in the House of Lords betwixt one Mr. Hall a Lawyer in the Temple and one Mr. Tucker, a Somersetshire gent, who was in the busines of the Duke of Monmouth and condemned to dye but repreived but his estate confiscated and disposed of. but since the revolution the Attainder was reversed by the Judges in the Kings bench, but Hall who got into possession appealed to the Lords and it is given against him almost nemine contradicente, I meane for Mr. Tucker. the Parliament, as I am informed, were yisterday upon laying a taxe upon all Christinings, wedings, and buryalls.

February 2nd 1694(5)

Wee have had a very severe season here for a long tyme of frost and snow but blessed bee God, Wee have enjoyed a thaw for 3 days and it continews very kindly to the great comfort of man and beast. both the Parliament and the Lord Cheife Justice of the Kings bench are punishing military officers for abusing the Cuntry and its hoped it wilbe a meanes to deterr others for the future from being insolent. A young Councellor of the Temple – I heare his name is Lencare[1] – about 2 nights since committed a barbarous murder on one Symball a rich Brickmaker in his own house where they had supped togeather. the Councellor is fled,

[1] Or Rencare: see *post*, letter of April 6th 1695.

but its sayd Symballs wife and daughter are in Newgate upon suspition of being accessary. the Parliament are upon ascertaining what their priviledges shalbe as to arrests which wilbe a good expedient as its hoped.

February 8th 1694(5)

Camdens booke is now come fourth but I have not yet seen it. The Parliament are still making further Inquiry into the Northerne plott and the Lords are now upon it and have committed one Taffe one of the wittnesses. The Commons are convinced there was such a plott and that there was ground for the Lancashire Tryall as apperes by their votes so that that party have by stirring in the busines aggravated their crimes and don much damage to their own party and Interest which likewise apperes by the Commons voting the burning of the proclamations and other things made by King James Parliament in Ireland, at the late Revolution, by the hands of our Common Hangman. There was a Tryall this weeke between Mr. Pride and the Earl of Bath about the Duke of Albamarles Estate, Pride clayming on the right of his wife upon the illegitimie of the late Duke but the veredict passed for the Earl of Bath. About 3 days since a merchant killed himselfe with a pistoll at a Tavern neer the Exchange. the occasion was being under some prosecution for smuggling some of the Kings customs.

February 16th 1694(5)

I hope the severity of the winter begins to abate with you as with us here, but since my last wee had the fearcenes of the season repeated in great snow high winds and Frost. Our news letter brings us the certaine account of the Dartmouth Frigot being taken and carryed into France, the Nonesuch somewhile before having incurred the same fate.

The Commons have thrown out the Chymney bill and are upon a Bill for Marriages and Buryalls etc. There is a Collonell a prisoner of war lately escaped out of the Tower.

The Lords are still upon the Lancashire plott and finde it worse and worse and have comitted some and sent for others. The Commons are punishing the abuses and misdemeaners comitted by millitary officers and persons intrusted in that affaire. The Lord Admirall Russell at Xtmas last at his cuntry appartments at Cales[1] made an extraordinary Feast. 150 dishes – the first course an Ox rusted whole. 12 hoggsheads of punch in a Fountaine in which was a little boy that was in a boat swiming on the punch sea and delivered it to the Company. The Admirall had 800 men to wayt on him. this was very amazing to the Spaniards.

February 23rd 1694(5)

This day sevenight Mr. Guy[2] Secretary to the Lords Comissioners of the Treasury, a man deemed to bee worth at least £100,000 and a member of Parliament, was comitted to the Tower for being faulty in his office, where he still continues.

The Commons have voted all pensions that exceed £200 p. an. to bee taken away during the warr which amounts to £70,000 p. Annum and the Commons are now upon the Excise of Leather. the Queen lyes in state at Whitehall in order to her Interment the 5th of March. Agitant Pannford continues still in the Tower and is like to bee severely punished and his brother is under examination and censure which is servant to Sir Stephen Fox. The Commons are very industrious to looke into and regulate abuses and misdemeanors which gives a prospect to a good close of this session.

[1] Cadiz. [2] Henry Guy (1631–1710), politician. He had taken a bribe.

March 2nd 1694(5)

Wee have Intelligence from the straights that some of our men of War there have lately taken two French men of warr – considerable shipps – after a smart encounter in which one of our Captains, viz: Cap. Killegrew[1] was slayne. The lords as I heare have voted that our Fleets expedition into the straights hath contributed very much to the honor and Interest of the English nation. Mr. Guy still remaynes in the Tower and Panceford the Agent is there also and his brother also in custody. there was a skirmish lately in a Chocalet house betwixt the Earle of Danby and one Capt. Stringer once under his comand but the blows on either side not dangerous. it was as its sayd an old quarrel revived: and on Fryday sevenight the only son of Sir Robert Thomas a young gent of about 19 yeares of age and my wifes Godson was killed in Drury lane by some drunken fellows unknown to him. Wee have had for 3 or 4 days strange weather, viz: snow frost rayne and high windes.

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The Queens Interment holds for Tuesday.

March 9th 1694(5)

The Queene was with much glory interred, according to the published notice, on Tuesday last about 6 at night the Archbishop of Canterbury having first preached the funerall sermon. I forbeare mentioning any thing of the maner of the procession because I suppose it wilbe at large represented in print by some one or other of the Haralds. Many Malefactors for robbing on the Highway burglaries clipping and coyning have bin condemned and executed at the Assizes neer adjacent to these parts. this weeke was condemned at Hartford one Mr. Hynton the son of a Woollen draper in Pauls Churchyard a young man of about 2 or 23 yeares old

[1] James Killigrew (d. 1695).

for robbing on the Highway. hee hath bin formerly tryed for other roberies and transported but being so notorious and audacious according to speciall order of the Judge hee was executed the same day sentence passed for feare of an escape. At Winchester was condemned an Alderman's son of that towne, as I take it for robbing on the Highway, and also one Captaine Clark, late Governor of Cows in the Isle of Wight, for ether clipping or coyning. The Commons are very vigorous in their endeavours to discover those that have in their offices or places of trust defrauded ether the King or his subjects in the executing of their offices – resolving not to spare their own members if culpable. they have lately sent one Cragg who was imployed in clothing the army to the Tower for refusing to produce before them his books of account in order to discover some abuses that were before them.

March 16th 1694(5)

I make no doubt but you will heare, before these come, somewhat of the catastrophy that hath lately befallen a great Commoner of this Kingdom I meane Sir Jo. Trever late Speaker of the House of Commons for taking a great sum from the Citty after passing the Orphans Bill for which hee is turned out of the chaire and Mr. Foaly chosen in his roome. Sir John hath not since bin at the House and its probable hee may not sit altogeather so easy as formerly on the bench at the Rolls. The Commons are vigorously proceeding farther in this affaire which doubtless puts many great ones into great consternations and troublings and it is the opinion of some wise men that this course is a presage that God is about some extraordinary work to bee effected amongst us and hoped to bee for the best and that the cuntry hereafter will take all possible care whom they ellect for Representatives. The people here are wonderfully pleased

with this method the Commons are now upon. God give a good issue to their endeavours.

March 23rd 1694(5)

The Commons have voted 3 of the Comissioners for the Hackny coaches guilty of such crimes as that an address bee made to the King to turn them out. Next weeke I heare wilbe mustred in Hyde Park 6 Regiments of Horse being all that is under pay in England. Tis no news to tell you that Sir John Trever is expelled the House.

March 30th 1695

The Commons goe on with their reforming their own House and have expelled one Mr. Hungerford for receiving a gratuity when chayreman of a Comittee etc., and have sent Sir Thomas Cooke a member to the Tower for not giving them a sattisfactory answer as to monies that hee had in his hands of the East India Company supposed to bee applied to some by concerns etc. And they are upon passing a Bill to punish him and others that refuse to make direct Answers to questions propounded in order to make further discoveries etc. Thursday last were drawn up in Hyde park 6 Regiments of Horse in compleat equipage, the King present. The next weeke wilbe tryed at the Chancery bar, by a Court comissionated for that purpose, a Captaine of a man of Warr for sinking a French man of warr, after hee had bin taken and a considerable tyme in his custody, shee being laden with rich goods the which hee tooke out of her etc. The Lord Howard of Effingham is lately dead and so is the Lord Abergaveny. Sir John Trenchard I heare is very ill againe.

April 6th 1695

The sea Captain mentioned in my former was tryed and acquitted. The Bills against Sir Thomas Cooke and others

for not answering are like to passe. The Marquess of Hallifax dyed last night. Mr. Guy that is in the Tower is sayd to have acquitted his place of Secretary to the Lords of the Treasury. Mr. Rencare that killed Symball surrendred himselfe and was tryed on Thursday and found guilty of manslaughter and one of the Assarcinates of Sir Robert Thomas his sons being taken and tryed is convicted of murder. Wee have had bitter cold weather and coales for £3 10*s*. a chadron. this day a little warmer.

April 13*th* 1695

I protract the sending the bookes upon the account of Camdens Britannica to know whether if I can get them at the rate I wrote whether you would have three, two or one. I presume I may heare from you by the next post and then its likely I may send all the bookes the Satturday following. Yisterday Sir Thomas Cooke's Councell were heard before the House of Lords but they read the Bill against him the second tyme and comitted it and have ordered Sir Thomas himselfe to bee in person before them on Munday next. Since my last wee have had some troubles from the Mob by reason of one Tooley a pretended provost marshall who kept a kind of Marshallsey in Holborn where hee got fellows that hee procured as soldiers to serve in the Army to bee confined till a passage ready to transport them for Flanders and its sayd hee sold them for £3 a head to the Commanders. There were about 200 and many of them misserably used and the house hath bin noted for this usage for sev'rall moneths. but it seems the Sheriffe of Middlesex having an execution against Tooley in whose house there was a Guard of Soldiers, the soldiers made resistance so that the Sheriffe was forced to call Assistance and the mob being a great number of them hard by at their recreation in Lincolnes Inn feilds hearing thereof and being glad of the oppertunity

came to the Sherriffs ayd and broke into the House let loose all the prisners that were confined, spoiled the House and brought out all the goods, being very good and of good valew, and burnt them before the dore of the House. one man hath bin killed in the fray and sev'rall wounded. they have bin up for sev'rall dayes and both the Kings guards and traynebands have bin upon duty to still them and its hoped the Hurleyburley is now over. Its sayd the Lord Osanstan hath fought the Lord Moone and killed him. there is a report that 2 French privateers came into the river of Thames and had almost taken and carryed away the William and Mary Yatch but were tymely discovered and both of the priveteers seized.

April 20th 1695

I received yours last night And have made some inquiry this morning about Cambden in the larger paper and am informed, and so indeed I was before, that its a hard matter to get one. it seems they printed few more then just to serve the subscribers. The price is excessive and I canot meet yet with any Bookeseller that hath one but I am going abroad againe this afternoone and shall give a further account in the foot of these. Sir Thomas Cooke some dayes since promissed the lords that if hee might have an Act to indempnify him against any damage that might accrew by reason of his discovery hee would give an account to whom hee paid the mony hee was intrusted with by the East India Company and for that purpose the lords sent down a Bill to the Commons which they have agreed to so that the two Bills will fourthwith bee compleated against Sir Thomas. The Marquesse of Normandy[1] is acquitted as to what hee was charged with. The Turks have retaken Schio. The Parliament are

[1] John Sheffield, 3rd Earl of Mulgrave (1648–1721). Made Marquess of Normanby in 1694.

RICHARD COFFIN (1622–1698) AS A YOUTH

From a painting at Portledge.

To face page 200.]

very thoughtfull to contrive some law touching our Coyne and mony but as yet can come to no result.

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Wee have had for a week excellent Aprill weather and hope you have the same in the cuntry.

I have made further Inquiry for Camden in the large paper but canot meet with one but I hope to have it of some one that subscribed but am informed the mapps are new and not Hollands.

April 28th 1695.

So soone as I receive your peremptory orders I intend to send your bookes according to directions. There have been lately two great Tryalls at the Kings bench bar touching the late Duke of Albemarles[1] estate and the lord of Bath a party in both. The first was with one Mr. Pride and it lasted till one a clock in the morning but that went for my Lord. this last was betwixt the Lord Montegue, which marryed the Dutchiss, and the Earle and that begun yisterday about 9 in the morning and lasted till eight this morning the Judges never going from the bar. but this last went against the Earle tho hee had two former verdicts. The Estate is sayd to bee £7000 p. Ann. Sir Thomas Cooke hath made no discovery to any purpose and so is like to continew a prisoner. Sir Basill Firebrasse is in custody about that affaire. it seems they have charged Sir John Trever with the receiving of £500 which I heare hee hath returned back. Wee have had much rayne all this day.

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[1] The estate in question according to Evelyn was worth £11,000 p.a. It was alleged that the wife of General Monk, 1st Duke of Albemarle, had committed bigamy in marrying the Duke and that their son Christopher was illegitimate and his widow was therefore unable to inherit. It was ultimately held that this was so and the Earl of Bath obtained most of the estate minus vast costs.

Just now I heard a member of the House of Commons say that they had carryed up to the Lords an Impeachment against the Duke of Leeds[1] and that the Lords have sent Firebrasse and one Mr. Bates to the Tower.

May 4th 1695

Yisterday His Majesty met the Parliament where hee passed 4 publique Bills besides one private one, of a tax on coles, glass etc. – another for oblivion, another to prevent clipping and coyning and another against Sir Thomas Cooke etc., a privat Bill to reverse an Attaynder against one Lester a Governor in the West Indies and then made a short speech to them. The effect was that hee thanked them for their supplies with mony, told them it was high tyme for his going into Flanders, that hee would take care to leave the government in faithfull hands, desiring them to contribute with their assistance and then prorogued them to the 18th of June. Sir Thomas Cooke, Firebrass, and those about the East India Company to bee continued in prison but as to Mr. Guy and the two Pansfords no provision being made but the Bills being layd by, they of course are dismissed upon the close of the Session and the Tryall of the Duke of Leeds respited till next Session. I heare the Administrators of the Goverment are the Archbishop of Canterbury, Duke of Shrewsbury, Duke of Devonshire, Earl of Pembrook, Earl of Dorset, Lord Keeper[2] and Lord Godolphin. Wee heare that the Kings ship the Hope, Captain Robinson Comander, that was sayd to bee put into Ireland is carryed into Rochell in France as appeares by a Letter from the Captaine who was wounded and lost 80 men in the fight. There happened about 2 dayes since a fire at Lyme House not far from London bridge that hath burnt down 15 houses. I heare Sir John

[1] Sir Thomas Osborne, 1st Duke of Leeds (1631–1712).
[2] Lord Somers.

Trenchard wilbe buryed some day the next weeke and Sir William Trumbald is to succeed him.

I heare that some dayes since, there passing some words of heat about the publique, as I take it at a Comittee, between Sir Edward Seymour and Sir Richard Onslow, there was a challenge sent by the former to the 2d, but was prevented going further by the Speaker and other members of the House.

May 11th 1695

His Majesty waits for a faire wind to embark for Flanders. The Lord Gray of Werk[1] is made an Earle and (Privy) Councellor and so is Sir Peregrin Bartue.[2]

This sessions severall persons were Indicted and fined for trading for broad mony[3] and perticularly one Bithell a vintner in London was fined a £1000 and to lye in prison till payd for trading so, and giving advantage for broad mony. another was fined £1000 and another £200. 2 days since a spy from France was seized at Kensington and its sayd wilbe speedily tryed.

May 18th 1695

The King is safely arrived in Holland. hee landed at the Maze Tuesday last. The Lords Justices have not yet (don) any publique Act. 3 of (them, viz:) ye Archbishop of Canterbury, Duke of Devon, and Lord Godolphin, went out of town but whether returned I heare not. The first went to Canterbury to bee installed. The 2 last went to Newmarket. Wee have very little news at present, all things are quiet. All things eatable are here very deare. two or three days since one Mr. Byerly of the Temple meeting a gent in

[1] Forde Grey, 3rd Baron Grey of Werk, now created Earl of Tankerville (d. 1701).

[2] Bertie.

[3] Good unclipped coinage.

Temple lane, a stranger (with) which as they passed by each other the hilts of their (swords) occasionally hitching, the one conceiving a suddaine choller drew his sword and hath given Mr. Byerly as is supposed a mortall wound but is not yet dead.

May 25th 1695

I have this day caused to bee delivered to the Exeter Carrier a box of books to you at Portledge neer Torrington. there are all the things you wrote for saving Constantines Lexecon and Leland. The Lexecon is not to bee had at the Bookesellers and Lelands booke is not yet published. Dr. Merret my Neighbor, who I think is the oldest phisicon in England, is disposing of his Library in order to (retire) into the cuntry and sent to mee to advise touching the sale, and hee hath this Lexecon. I would have bought it but hee told mee hee would not part with it singly but I presume I shalbe privy to the Contract and then may get it of the Bookeseller that buys the library. I have sent one booke without order, stitcht, viz: Sir Thomas Cooks examination which wilbe worth your reading tho it bee somewhat deare, 12d price, but by it you may perceive how easily wee may bee bought and sold by those which should preserve us. The nuptialls were this week solemnized betwixt the Marquess of Tavestock[1] and Madam Howland.

June 8th 1695

This day Mr. Atturny Gen. Ward was made both Serjeant and Lord Cheefe Baron. its sayd Serjeant Blincoe is to (bee) made Judge upon the death of Mr. Justice Ayres.

[1] Wriothesley Russell, later Duke of Bedford (1680–1711). He married under age at the Chapel of the Manor House of Streatham, Surrey, Elizabeth Howland, daughter and heiress of John Howland lord of the Manor of Streatham.

Whether true I know not but generally reported a Curtizon was a few days since delivered of two twins in a young Barristers chambers in the Temple.

June 15th 1695

On Munday night last being the Aniversary of the Nativity of the Prince of Wales some lewd Heroes assembled at the Dog Tavern in Drury lane and there caused a Bonefire to bee made and had a ketle drum and other military musick and drank and inforced others that passed by to drink the Prince of Wales health. but the mob soon got about them and broke the vintners windows and would have don more damage had not mony been given to them to prevent it. one of them is taken and severall others of the ringleaders discovered but yet not taken. Wee every day expect to heare of some action in Flanders the Armies being so neer each other.

June 22nd 1695

Here are various reports about the taking of Renock. some tymes wee heare of the taking of it and then againe to the contrary so that as yet wee have no certaine news about it. I read this day in a news Letter that the Faulcon a sixth rate ship is lately taken by the French. Sir Richard Reynell wee heare is out of his place in Ireland and it is reported that his son and Lady in their passage from London towards Ireland are taken by the French but whether true or no I know not. Wee have many clippers taken in and about London. you gents that are concerned in the Goverment in the Cuntry will doe well to have your eyes on all strangers and Runagadors for they shift themselves in the remotest parts of the Kingdom and pretend trafick, as wee heare, in order to ingross into their hands all ye broad mony of the Kingdom.

Undated, probably about June 24th 1695

I have made some Inquiry as to Mr. Clarks Bible. it seems the Author is son of that Mr. Clark that writt the famous lives and this is the second Impression. it was before in two quartos. I asked of one Divine about it but hee could say nothing to it. Mr. Brown a Bookeseller says itt sells well for neer 30 shillings. hee hath it not only shewed the 4to on the New Testament. there seemes to bee nothing of Learning in it but a plaine Coment so that possibly the plainess of it makes it usefull for all families and therefore the more saleable. I will better inform myselfe against my next letter. pardon this scrible for I write it standing and where I want room.

June 29th 1695

I heare our Fleet is come back to Spithead by reason of contrary winds and that letters of Marque wilbe fourthwith given out to such as will receive them in order to prevent our (shores) thus being infested by French shipps. On Sunday last two young gents of the Temple one Mr. Young and Mr. Cary fought in Hide park and as its reported are both dead of their wounds. The quarrell was about a woman. also on the same day a mercer in Coven Garden riding out of town for his pleasure foolishly gallopping his horse was thrown, split his scull and dyed. There is lately taken a Tripeman at Westminster, viz: one that sells tripes and cowheels, for clipping and coyning. hee had a Cuntry house where in his garden hee had an underground roome where for a long time hee hath carryed on this later trade and aboundance of mony coyned was there taken with ye engines and tooles hee used in making it.

July 6th 1695

I have better informed myselfe about the kind of Mr.

Clarks Annotations on the Bible and doe perceive that it may bee useful for the lower and meaner order of people and not so much for the learned and therefore conceive it not for your (use but) for a common use in order to doe a generall good. Our army part of it are sat down before Namure. I heard one say the last night as if some letter were intercepted that gave a hint of some plot against the Goverment here at home. They are very much devided about the choyce of Sherriffs for the citty this yeare and about their Fynes.

July 15th 1695

Our Intelligence from the Lord Barcly[1] intimates that they had by boms fired St. Malloes in 3 places and supposed the most part was burned down but no certaine news yet whether all or what part and its sayd that an expresse is come to the Lords Justices that Grandvill another sea town is since burnt to ashes by the same meanes and that a paper will before night bee printed. Yisterday being execution day after our Sessions 4 suffred, whereof one was a remarkable criminall a Tripeman of Westminster for clipping and coyning. hee had abundance of Guynies, so that you had best have gould weighed in your house for there bee many guynies that passe here though good gould yet far short of their intrinsick weight and I presume gould wilbe pretty comon in pay with you in the Cuntry after a while as well as here because of the vast quantity of gould coyned of late.

Grandvill they say is certainly burnt down and a fort taken before Namure.

July 20th 1695

I remember what you hinted as to Camdens larger booke but canot yet heare of one. however I have layd out for it.

[1] Lord Berkeley of Stratton, who married the Maid of Honour. Admiral of the Blue.

Wee had news as if the town of Namure was certainly taken but our foraign post which came yisterday does not confirme it but intimates our battering it so as that wee may hope it is by this time in our possession. But the surrender of Cassall is without doubt and indeed it is discoursed to bee a great damage to the French. its sayd wee did not loose above 250 men in the seige. it seems the French did not beseege Dixmude. Yisterday two men that were repreived for a weeke the Fryday before when the other malefactors suffered were caried to Tiburne one in a coach who was hanged for poysoning his wife: the other in a cart for robbing a house which was againe repreived at the Gallows and brought back on horseback to Newgate. We have had for two or 3 dayes moderate rayne.

July 27th 1695

Wee heard this day as if Dixmude were not yet surrendred. Wee have ill news from Ireland, viz: that one of our men of Warr by an accedent in the powder roome had her upper deck blown up and about 30 men thrown (into) the sea, some killed, others wounded, but the ship wilbe speedily refitted for service. also an East India ship in another port in Ireland being boarded by a French Privateere and the Captaine perceiving hee was overnumbred with men blew up the upper deck (of the ship and) all the French thrown thereby overboard and by that meanes saved her goods, the French making never another attempt. the ship was worth £100,000 but though the goods are saved yet this wilbe lost as its feared. Sir George Hutchins his Lady was interred the last night in our Church. her funerall was very magnificent. Sir George, as I take it, is your Neighbor as to birth. hee is reputed to bee really worth £60,000 and hath only two daughters, I think both neer mariageable.

August 3rd 1695

Its sayd our Cales[1] Fleet lyes at Milford Haven and that the Marquess of Carmarthen[2] being convoy carryed them thither upon an apprehention that a French fleet was neer them, and that its sayd the error is much resented by those in the supreame authority. its supposed strongly here that the Lord Berkly is now Bombarding of Dunkirk and also I heard it said that news is come that Thursday last was the day that was determined on for an assault against the Great Castle at Namur. Also its discoursed as if there was great likelihood of a batle speedily to bee between the two armies, viz: ours and the French in Flanders, things very much seeming to concurr for a tendency towards it.

August 17th 1695

On Munday wee were here under some feares that our affaires abroad had not been successfull because of our forraigne paquets not coming, the winds being favorable, and it being reported the Gazet would not come out and besides some disaffected people gave out as if wee had had a fight and that our King, whom God preserve, was dangerously wounded and the same night a drunken soldier of the Earle of Oxfords troope coming by the old Exchange on horsback reported the King was dead and behaved himselfe so madly that they knockt him off his horse and being convened before the Lord Mayor hee was sent to Newgate. but the forraigne posts coming in when the pacquetts were open the peoples minds were quieted bringing news that there had been no fight and that wee were still playing our Canon and bombs against the castle of Namure. only the French had

[1] Cadiz.

[2] Peregrine Osborne, 2nd Duke of Leeds (1658–1729). Vice-Admiral. He allowed at this time a valuable East Indiaman to fall into the hands of the French.

burnt some part of Brussells. But yisterday wee had a flying report brought in by an Ostender that the Castle of Namure had hung out a white flagg in order to a parly but there is no express of it brought to Court and therefore doubtfull. Whereas there was sometyme since a proclamation to seize one monsur Robart a frenchman formerly a servant to the Duke of Leeds and there having bin information that the said Robart had bin severall times lately seen about this towne yisterday another proclamation issued with promisse of £200 reward to any that should take him. Wee have here now very good harvast weather but its sayd wheat will not prove good this yeare.

August 24th 1695

Wee heare that the Marquess of Carmarthen and the Lord Berklys fleet are come home and that Admirall Russell is gon to bumbard Marselles or some towne in those parts.

Most things bare great price here and it is feared the winter wilbe severe in this towne. Candles are sold for eight pence a pound and its sayd they will advance to a shilling and also the price of bread riseth.

August 31st 1695

Wee have had great rejoycing here for the surrender of the Castle of Namure. wee had at the same tyme news that Admirall Russell had bombarded Marselles and taking possession of some part of it as also a considerable number of shipps, a letter whereof came to the Secretaries office from Flanders but the news to Flanders coming by the way of Germany, they thought it not fitt to publish the same in print till further confirmation which wee expect when the forraign paquetts come in.

Its now our Sessions and never were there more clippers

in custody then now. 10 or 11 are convicted and others respited for tryall to another tyme, the evidence not being ready. the Lord Mayor and Aldermen have bin with the Lords Justices to set moderate rates on Coales candles and other things by reason of the great rates of late advanced which their Lordshipps will take into consideration at another meeting.

September 7th 1695

Our paquets from abroad that are come since my last bring but litle extraordinary news, save that when the Garrison marched out of Namure castle, Marshall Buffleers[1] was arrested at the command of the King of Great Brittaine in the head of his army and remayns a prisoner and that fower thousand Deserters of the French are come over to our army and that our King will speedily bee with us. our difference between the Lord Mayor and Aldermen and Common Councell on the one side and the Common Hall on the other side about election of sherriffs still continue and the flame rather increases then allayed tho the tyme for their acting comences at Michaelmas. this contest is ill tymed however. Wee are all in great joy here for our good success this sumer. Wee have had great storms this weeke and many light Colliers bound for Newcastle cast away.

September 14th 1695

As wee had not long since joyfull news of our good success abroad, so this weeke brought dismall news from places at and neer home, viz: of a vast number of light colliers cast away in the late storme. some say 100, some more some less,

[1] Louis François, duc de Bouflers, Maréchal de France (1644–1711). Victor of Battle of Fleurus. He was kept prisoner after surrender of Namur on frivolous pretexts, but really because William III wanted to start peace negotiations with him. These led to the Treaty of Ryswick.

but I geather that according to the most sober computation, 60 at the least were distroyed and seamen and passengers about 500 – also the French taking our two East India shipps and carrying them into France is indubitally confirmed, the which were worth as its sayd three hundred thousand pounds. the price of bread-corne very much rises here.

The King as its sayd wilbe here at Michaelmas and that wee shall have a new Parliament to meet speedily but yisterday I heard it contradicted. things are in a quiet posture here.

September 21st 1695

Our contest about sherriffs is over and one Mr. Buckingham and Mr. Wills chosen, two good men. Admirall Hobbs is sayled westward to meet with a fleet of our merchants shipps and to fall on the French Admirall that tooke our East India shipps if hee can meet him. I inquired about the price of Hops at Sturbitch faire and they say that the price demanded was £7 10*s*. a hundred and £8 – but the hop merchant told mee that faire would bee no standard, but hee thought the standing rate would bee about £5 and £5 10*s*. a hundred.

September 29th 1695

There are a great number of Clippers every day seized by the occasion of one lately taken who hath detected the confederacy. inter al. one Saunder's chamber was broken open in the Inner Temple where they found £50 of mony clipt and the clippings and all the engins and instruments for doing it, but hee not being within hath fled for it and since its sayd one Berry, a gent's son of good quallity, of the Temple is taken into custody for the like crime and its sayd Saunders is a Somersetshire gents son.

October 4th 1695

The discourse and preparation for a new Parliament continew still fervent. Sir Thomas Clergis they say is dead of an Appoplexy being 77 yeares of age. Also I was this day informed that Mr. Savory of Slade is lately dead at the Bath. There having been a robbery lately comitted by some Highwaymen in Dorsetshire who tooke from the Kings Collectors there £700 neer Blandford, it seems the Criminalls are since detected and neer all the mony found and some of the persons taken into custody. one of the persons in the confederacy was a Knights son of that County.

Sir John Hubland is chosen Mayor of London.

I have bin since the above written amongst the Hop merchants and am informed that the price is from £5 10*s*. a hundred to £6 10*s*.

October 12th 1695

The King came to towne about 7 last night. hee landed at Margerets Thursday at tenn before noone. the streets were there full of bonefires, illuminations and all maner of demonstrations of joy for his reception and its sayd for certaine that presently after his arrivall hee declared in Councell the dissolution of this Parliament and another to meet the 22th of the next moneth and that the declaration will come fourth in print this afternoone. There hath bin, as I am informed, as great Caballing all over England as ever, and in many places as much drinking and debauchery, preparatory to their elections, sad omens of what are to bee expected from them for if they doe not come in well, how can wee expect a blessing upon them after they are in. There were 5 persons, some Irish and Dutch, that were seized at Margerets and brought up hither and put into Newgate suspected to have designed the assassinating of the King.

October 19th 1695

The King began his progresse Thursday last and that night arrived at Newmarket. hee intends only a midland circuit and will returne to Windsor the 9th of November. All our chatt here is about the election of the next Parliament and great heats have arrissen here in their caballing about their choyce for London. The provost of Eaton, Dr. Cradock,[1] dyed Thursday morning, and Dr. Godolphin[2] is sayd to (succeed to) that place. I was this day informed that 3 persons were today seized and in custody accused for designing the assassination of his Majesty and that one of them had confessed the designe.

There is sad news come that 3 great East India shipps more are taken by the French on the coast of Ireland. just as I am closing these it is sayd that part of Newmarket is burnt down but I heare it is not true.

October 26th 1695

I have bought for you an excellent discourse written by the Lord Hallifax before his death, the title some Cautions for chusing members of Parliament. its a stitcht booke price 6*d*. and in great esteeme. I will send it in your next box. Yisterday was concluded our choyce for chusing members for London, who have made a very good choyce, viz: Sir Robert Clayton, Sir John Fleet, Sir William Ashurst and Mr. Papillion. Sir Thomas Cooke the prisoner in the Tower stood againe for Colchester but was not chosen. Wee had a flying report that the French had taken Hudsons bay but its not confirmed. Wee have had great foggs here of late and this day is so. I had in my hands yisterday two Turnips that weighed 21 pound. one 11, the other 10. they came

[1] Zachary Cradock (1633–1695).

[2] Henry Godolphin (1648–1733), younger brother of Sidney, Earl of Godolphin.

out of Mr. Plumers ground by Ware in Hartfordshire, who its sayd hath a great quantity of the same size.

November 2nd 1695

The nation at present in action and discourse is for the most part taken up about Elections for Parliament and according to view of such as are chosen wee have a prospect to a good session. Its sayd there wilbe some change in some of the capitall places at Court but on what foundation the discourse is grounded wee know not. there is much chatt about the Earle of Exeters being from home when the King was at his house as though hee did it purposely, the King having sent word of his coming. I am certainly informed that Mr. Beare of the Southams neer Kingsbridge and once chairman of the Sessions is brought hither by a messenger upon the account of some seditious papers found in his house. Admirall Russell is not yet come but dayly expected.

November 9th 1695

The King wilbe at Windsor this night, as I am informed, and Munday night at Kensington and Tuesday dynes with a nobleman at St. James where that evening wilbe a great representation of fireworks. There was lately comitted to the Marshalsey 3 men, tradesmen as is sayd of Southwark, for high treason. His Majesty had a noble reception at Warwick castle by the Lord Brooks: a magnificent dinner and the soldiers were enterteyned with punch out of Guy of Warwicks pot which conteyned 120 Gallons.

November 16th 1695

Thursday was the day for our Ellecting Knights for Middlesex. the Candidats were the Lord Admiral Russell and Sir John Wooltenhohn against Sir Gilbert Gerrard and Mr.

Hawtree. there was a vast appearance of electers and much bickering which caused a poll and the two first carried it. His Majesty is gon to Windsor and returns Tuesday next. The Duke of Glocester[1] is made Knight of the Garter. On Satturday night there broke out a fire in Beauford street in the Strand, where were burnt down 4 great houses and in it was burnt one Mrs. Knight a mayden gent. of quallity very pious and much lamented by good people. Mr. Bare is comitted to Newgate for High treason and the messenger sayes that seized him that hee found with him Sir John Southcots preist and one Mr. Ellis a nonjuror Parson of the Church of England and that there were seized in his custody severall seditious manuscript papers and withall one passage hee recites remarkable, viz: that Mr. Beare was a great prosecutor of Mr. Bamfeild[2] the Divine that dyed in Newgate and that hee himselfe is now in the same chamber where the other dyed. I heare Mr. Thomas Northmore your undersherriff is chosen Burgess for Okehampton.

November 23rd 1695

Yisterday being the tyme for the meeting of the Parliament they did according to Custome wayt on his Majesty in the House of Lords. But for that tyme hee made no set speech only wished them by the Lord Keeper to choose their Speaker and meet him there againe this day. accordingly they made choyce of the last Speaker Mr. Foley[3] and with him againe this day waited on the King. His Majesty approved of their choyce and made a speech to them some of

[1] The son of Anne, Princess of Denmark (d. 1700).

[2] Francis Bampfield (d. 1683), M.A., Wadham College, Oxford, Prebendary of Exeter. Repeatedly imprisoned for preaching and died in Newgate.

[3] Paul Foley (1645–1699), Tory M.P. for Hereford. Speaker until 1698.

the heads or effects of them as I remembr according as I heard them repeated are That the French were making great preparations against the next Campayne and that there must bee an addition made to our forces and a provision of monies sutable to such an exigency: that the last supply answered not its ends: that the English had behaved themselves bravely in this last yeares expedition: hee mynded them of releefe for the French protestants and of our coyne and other things which wilbe printed.

November 30th 1695

This day the Commons made their Address of thanks for the Kings gratious speech promissing him to stand by and assisting him against his enimies. To which addresse hee made answer that hee observed the marks of their affections towards him and that his happines was twisted with theirs and that hee desired nothing more than the welfaire of those nations where it hath pleased God to place him or words to this effect as neer as I can remember. Wee are in great perplexity here as I suppose you are in the Cuntry about our Coyne. the House of Commons tooke it into debate yisterday. Many measures are proposed but it wilbe very difficult to bring a method to perfection. The Commons mynding his Majesty of a Fast his Majesty hath promissed that a day shall speedily bee appointed for that purpose and the Commons have appointed two ministers already to preach before them on that day. On Munday last a barbarous murder was comitted on an Iremonger which lived without Aldgate as hee and his wife were coming home in the night from an adjacent neighborhood whom they first tyed and then robbed but afterwards the wifes hands being loose and she going to untye her husbands hee sayd hee knew some of them and one of them hearing it came back and killed him.

December 7th 1695

I formerly wrote you of a Camdens Britania of the large paper that was to bee sold. hee hath it still and as I remember his price is £4. if you are not supplyed by Mr. Yeo you may have this. The Commons have given two millions and a halfe towards the Navy for the next yeare and they are still busie upon the matter of coyne and are agreed that there must bee a new coyne and at the expense of the people and the same not to bee baser then our last milled money and are still debating about measures tending to perfect the same. Mr. Johnson[1] the minister that was so lamentably scourged when Doctor Oates under went his sentence, or much about that time, hath obteyned the Kings Grant, as I am credibly informed, for £1000 in ready mony to pay his debts and £300 p. Ann. during his and his sons life. On Thursday last a fire broke out neer us but blessed bee God went out without doing much damage. Wee have now much wett weather.

* * * * *

There was lately a censure made by the heads of the university of Oxford on some part of a sermon preacht there in which are some socinian tenants. I saw the censure in print and its sayd the minister tooke the words out of a booke of Dr. Sherlocks. there hath bin of late many papers printed pro and con on that subject. the Lord keepe the nation from Hareticall doctrins.

December 28th 1695

Mr. Litlebury our famous bookeseller dyed on Christmas day of a cancer in his mouth at the 74th yeare of his age. The House of Commons yisterday comitted one Sir George Maggot a Brewer who had petitioned about an undue Ellec-

[1] Samuel Johnson (1649–1703), the Whig divine.

tion for Southwark against Sir Edmond Bowyer, but they voted the petition frivolus and also that hee pay costs to the parties against whom hee had contended, and because hee had sayd that hee had freinds enough in the House to bring him there tho not duely elected, therefore they comitted him into the custody of the Serjeant at armes. the Bill for the new coyne is sent up to the Lords. Wee are in great straights here about our mony and so wee think you are in the cuntry. Wee have news here that a Parson neer Exeter is in prison there for clipping and coyning. it is a sad case if it bee so that a minister of the church dare comitt such a fact.

January 11th 1695(6)

The clamour about our mony was come to a high pitch in most parts of England, But on Thursday last the Commons came to such resolutions about an expedient that will for the present and I hope tyme future much calme the minds of the people, for they have voted for an order that all maner of clipt and other mony shall pass though it come short as to alloy of the standard, provided the same bee not palpable brass. Wee have very milde weather like the spring season. The Commons this day have passed the Bill for regulating Elections and sent it up to the House of Lords.

January 18th 1695(6)

The Coyne Act will speedily come out. wee are here pretty well calmed as to money and hope you are so in the Cuntry. The Lords have this day passed the Bill for regulating Elections and this day is come fourth a proclamation against one Mr. Feilding a Jacobite with a reward of £200 for the discovery for dangerously wounding Sir Henry Dutton Colt, a Middlesex Justice for doing Justice in his place etc.

February 2nd 1695(6)

The binding of bookes is now excessive deare as you may perceive by the binding of that litle booke of Carrs which cost 8*d*. I had the stitcht booke in Quiers at London Bridge and found that 8*d*. was his price for binding and therefore had it bound neerer home. Wee have had great losses by shipping lately, the Royall Soverayne[1] burnt, and another Kings shipp of 60 guns stranded and spoyled, as they say, neer Harwich, and a very considerable merchant shipp loaden, outward bound for the Barbadoes blown up neer Gravesend besides severall other smaller vessells. the Secretary for Scotland is out of his place. They have begun the new Coyne which I saw and now they will proceed to coyne much more. The Lord keeper is not well and I heare Sir George Treby is Speaker in the House of Lords pro tempore. I intend God willing on Wednesday next to carry my eldest son to Oxford.

February 15th 1695(6)

I have placed my son in Pembrook Colledge, that society being under the care of the Bp. of Bristoll Dr. Hall,[2] who is master and constantly resident there in the vacancy of the Parliament. hee is a very pious and learned man and hee recomended mee to a Tutor, viz: Mr. Sloper who hath a very good charecter in the university for an able Tutor. That house though it bee but a litle one yet is reputed to bee one of the best for sobriety and order and I am very glad that it is my sons lot to bee there.

I just now heare that the Dutch have taken an extra-

[1] The *Royal Sovereign* was the largest and most famous ship in the Navy.

[2] John Hall (1633–1710), Master of Pembroke (1664–1710), 'the last Puritan bishop,' though from Lapthorne's description his bishopric cannot have been overburdened with his puritanical leanings.

ordinary great prize from the French. I heare that the Comons have this day agreed with a Comittee that Guynies in payment shall not exceed 28*s*.

February 22*nd* 1695(6)

The French wee heare are forward in their preparations and Admirall Rooks is sayd to bee hastening home with his fleet. Its thought the French designe to fight us in this summers expedition. Wee are in a hurry againe about Guynies ever since the late vote that none should exceed 28*s*. in pay and now none or scarce any will take them for more then their old value, viz: 21*s*. 6*d*., but its thought they will come up to 30*s*. againe or at least bee continued for some tyme to 28*s*. the most of the old mony is gotton into the Exchequer to bee melted downe. I heare Mr. Wallop[1] is made Cursitor Baron in the place of Baron Bradbury deceased.

February 28*th* 1695(6)

I presume you have heard much of the relation of the horrid conspiracy[2] that blessed bee God is detected, touching the assassination of the King and invading the nation but the Parliament imediatly voted an association to protect the King's person and to avenge his death, if it should so hapen, the which association the Lord Mayor Aldermen and Common Councell also entred into and Admirall Russell is gon to Callais with a brave fleet farr stronger than the French and wee now hourly expect to heare of some great execution don on them. there are abundance of the conspirators taken as well those in the proclamation as others but the Duke of Berwick is not yet taken. also a proclamation is issued for all papists to depart out of London. last night the hearing

[1] Richard Wallop (1616–1697).

[2] This was a plot to murder King William at Turnham Green, engineered by Sir John Fenwick and known as 'Fenwick's plot.'

was on the Petition about Totnes Ellection. they sate till 12 of the clock in the Parliament house but it went for Sir Edward Seymour against Sir Richard Gipps.

Its now talked as if there were a supposition as though the French in this exegency they are in would attempt to land in Scotland. The Earle of Castlemayne hath surrendred himselfe and Goodman[1] the player is in Newgate who is his Dutchess favorite. Mr. Porter[2] in the proclamation being in custody, they say hath made a large discovery of the whole plott.

March 7th 1695(6)

I canot yet heare that ether of the two books, viz: Chancyes of Hartfordshire nor Mr. Baxters life are yet out. 3 of the plotters wilbe tryed Wednesday next, viz: King, Charnock and Keys. someone or other of them are continually sèized. our prisons here are almost filled with them. I was told this morning that Sir Roger Lestrange is dead in Newgate also that the Lord Cutts seized a Frenchman in an Inn in Smithfeild who had a muster roll of the English and others engaged and in pay here to carry on this conspiracy. Wee canot yet heare that Admirall Russell hath don any execution on the French shipping and its feared they will get off before hee can reach them. Its reported that Captaine Porter hath given a large and full account of the whole plott and that Pendergrasse[3] wilbe a concurring evidence. The House of Comons have not only voted against Sir Richard Gipps

[1] Cardonnell Goodman (1649–1699), paramour of Barbara Duchess of Cleveland, wife of Lord Castlemaine and former mistress of Charles II.

[2] George Porter (fl. 1684–1697). He was engaged in the plot to assassinate King William and turned King's Evidence, and was largely instrumental in the conviction of other plotters.

[3] Sir Thomas Prendergrast, 1st Baronet (1660–1709). Turned King's Evidence, was made a baronet and fell at Malplaquet.

in the Election for Totnes but likewise that hee shall pay Sir Edward Seymours charges and that hee bee taken into the custody of the Serjeant at arms. the people here are very forward to assert King Williams cause against the French and wee heare its so in most part of England and Scotland. Wee have had a week of very severe cold weather.

* * * * *

I heare just now the King hath passed 4 publique bills this day. one of them for reliefe of poor prisners and another for seizing and deteyning in custody suspicious persons notwithstanding the Hab. Corp. Act till 1 Sept.

March 14th 1695(6)

On Wednesday last were tryed convicted and condemned three of the late conspirators, viz: Charnock, King and Keys. they had very litle to say for themselves, their design to assascinate the King and joyn in the Invasion being manifestly proved by 4 or 5 of their own tribe. they are not yet executed but its sayd Tuesday next wilbe the day. since my last Sir Wm. Perkins and Ferguson are taken. its sayd Perkins will confess and make a large detection. 21 of the number in the proclamation are now in custody. Sir John Freind an eminent cittizen is comitted to Newgate for High treason and its sayd in Irons. many are dayly taken into custody upon suspition. In the Gazet you will find an excellent peece of service in consuming the French magazeene in Cluiret in Flanders. Mr. Manaton hath caryed the Election for Tavestock against the Lord James Russell. severall ministers are seized about this conspiracy. Dr. Lake is prisoner in the Tower and severall brought up out of the Cuntry. the Duke of Wittenburgh since my last is arrived at Dover from Flanders with the soldiers but they are not landed and its sayd are to returne the next faire winde. Inclosed are the Gazetts. the weather continues very cold.

March 22nd 1695(6)

On Wednesday last the 3 Conspirators, viz: Charnock King and Keys were hanged drawn and quartered at Tyburne. they did not deny the facts in the Indictment only would not own that the late King James gave them a Comission for the assassination but that it was contrived here. they say that Sir William Perkins is writing a great and ample discovery but others say it will scarce save him but hee wilbe tryed. Sir John Freind wilbe tryed the next weeke by a London Jury. They say now that all in the proclamation are seized saving the Duke of Berwick and Sir — Berkclay[1] who escaped into France. Mr. Ferguson and Sir Roger Lestrange are in Newgate. Newgate is very strictly guarded with the Trayne bands the prison being almost filled with the Conspirators. the Parliament hath not yet setled the busines touching Guinieas. Wee are now expecting the Venetian Ambassidors coming from Holland: things are in a very good posture here and very quiet notwithstanding the late great intended villainy and wee hope it is so with you in the Cuntry.

* * * * *

Wee have had here of late much rayne but now dry and cold againe.

Since the abovewritten I heare that the Lord Aylesbury is comitted to the Tower and that one Lt.-Col. Cash is taken into custody also that the Grand Jury have found the Bills against Sir John Freind and Sir Wm. Perkins. that Sir John Freind is to bee tryed by a London Jury on Munday and Perkins on Tuesday but its supposed that Sir W. Perkins hath since made such a discovery that will bee the cause of putting off his tryall. also its sayd that Mr. Porter hath asserted the Lancashire gents plott to bee true and vindi-

[1] Sir George Barclay (fl. 1696). The principal agent in the Fenwick plot.

cated the evidence of the wittnesses which are now in custody and their evidence once redeculed.

March 28th 1696

Blessed bee God the late horred conspiracy is at length so layd open that wee doe assure ourselves the neck of it is broken. Sir John Frend and Sir Wm. Perkins who were last tryed and condemned are to bee executed on Wednesday next. There was one Harris a preist who was in the proclamation hath lately surrendred him selfe and discovered two others which were seized in the two prisons called the Counters and another was lately taken in the prison of the Marshalsey, they running into these prisons for Sanctuary. Its sayd that Harris declares King James was privy to that contrivance of the assascination. The lord Mungomery and Sir John Fenwick[1] are not yet taken. The Sessions are adjourned till after Easter so that there wilbe a respit of tryalls till then. The Commons have voted guyneas to pass only for 22*s.* – and the Bill sent up to the Lords. Sir Cloudesly Shovell is now in the Downs but hath left another with a squadron to impound the French shipps at Callais. I referr you to the inclosed Gazets for news which will give you an account how ready the people are in most places of the Kingdom to protect his Majesty from his enimies.

April 4th 1696

I received yours last night and am glad to heare that your son is so well fixed in Wadham colledge and that your younger son hath escaped the smale pox. London was never more free since my tymes of that distemper then it is at this time. I doe not heare that ether Mr. Baxters life or Chan-

[1] Sir John Fenwick (1645–1697), conspirator. After this arrest he attempted to bribe the witnesses against him and then pretended to reveal what he knew of the plot; beheaded in 1697.

cyes book of Hertfordshire are out. I am very confident I shall have present notice when out. However I will make constant inquiry. As for Lelands works the Booke sellers that were designing it afterwards disagreed and layd it aside and I doe not heare that they have reassumed the designe. Yisterday were executed Sir William Perkins and Sir John Freind according to the sentence pronounced in such cases. Sir Wm. Perkins owned his being present sev'rall tymes at the debates about the assassination and also that hee saw King James Comission for raising men to joyne with the Invaders and that hee was to assist therein but refused to discover any of the Conspirators because hee had drawn them into the plott. Sir John Freind denyed being concerned in the assassination but confessed his being in the plott about the Invasion. The Tryalls of the other three Charnock King and Keys are out and the two last, viz: Perkins and Freinds are printing. Mr. Duke the elder of Otterton was kin to Sir John Freinds Lady and was with him the night before his execution. I spoke with him just as hee came from him. hee told mee that Sir John Freind desired him to get an order from the Lord Chief Justice Holt to have some devine or devines to come to him but as I remember hee named Non Jurers but the Judge denyed them but Mr. Duke had an order for Dr. Horneck and Mr. Mereton two sollid and able ministers. I have not seen Mr. Duke since but I am apt to think Sir John refused them for its generally sayd by the spectators that at the place of execution they were absolved by the Imposition of hands of three Nonjurers just before their exit to the great amasement of the people. its sayd their speeches which they delivered in papers to the sherriffs wilbe out this night. There is, as I am informed, A Comission to try more in Westminster Hall and that 4 will come to tryall there on Tuesday next. Freind and Perkins were repreived for 2 dayes upon a petition

delivered by their freinds and it was thought they would have made some considerable discovery to have merited their lives of which the Commons taking notice they ordered 7, viz: privy Councellers of the house to goe to Newgate and discourse them. but what the prisoners sayd did not answer expectation and so were executed the next day. The Commons have ordered a bill to bee brought in that all such as shall refuse to take the oaths shall bee deemed as recusants convict and that noe one whatsoever that shall refuse to take the association shall bee in any place or office of trust.

April 11th 1696

The quarters of the two last executed conspirators are put over Temple barr. fower more wilbe tryed in Westminster Hall Fryday next. Wee have no certaine Intelligence where Admirall Rooke is. The King passed a great many bills yisterday but the Association bill was not ready. forraigne Letters say that Tiber being overflown hath distroyed many houses and persons. That the higher town of Charleroy is burnt down. Sir John Knight is comitted to Newgate for high treason and Rich. Hart is in the Fleet.

April 18th 1696

Tuesday next wil be tryed 3 more of the Conspirators in Westminster Hall. On Sunday morning Mr. Fane, son to Sir Henry Fane, who was standard bearer in the Band of Pentioners was killed by another in a duell neer St. James. Its generally averred that the Earle of Bath is out of the Leiftenancy for Devonshire and Cornwall and that the Lord Stanford has that for Devon and the Lord Radnor Cornwall. also that the Earl of Bath is not of the privy Councell and the Goverment of Plymouth Fort is or wilbe given to another.

April 25th 1696

Wee have excellent news here of the arrivall of Admirall Rooks at Spithead with a vast fleet of merchant men which will bring in present customs to the value of at least one hundred thousand pounds. this gladdens the hearts of the people heare. I doe not heare when the last condemned conspirators will suffer. Goodman the player hath made a discovery and many are therein seized. The present session of Parliament wilbe closed as the members say someday the next weeke. Its talkt of that there wilbe speedily great alterations at Court as to places of trust.

May 2nd 1696

I received a Letter Wednesday last from Mr. Coffin your son to pay the £12 to a Chaireman in Pauls Church yard, and, that very day I went to Mr. Gough before I went to the Chaireman and Mr. Gough shewed mee a heape of mony very faire the best as it seemed to mee (next) the puncht and told mee the man should choose what hee would have out of it and I acquainted him therewith who came and viewed the mony and seemed to like it but sayd hee would acquaint his corespondents of it and if they would take it hee would receive it of Mr. Gough but the next day hee told mee none of them would receive it. Of this I gave Mr. Coffin an account that very night by the post and advised him to stay 5 or 6 days and that when the 4th of May[1] was past wee would think on some expedient to supply him. Wee are in a strange streight at present about mony. the £12 lye still in Mr. Gough's hands who is a very civell man and wilbee sure to accomodate your sonn and I doe and will make it my care to see that the mony shall speedily bee returned. Such a hurry I hope will not happen againe this good whiles. The

[1] The 4th of May was fixed by the Coinage Act as the last day on which the Government would take clipped money in payment of taxes.

King went away towards Flanders this morning. the care of the Goverment is comitted to the same persons that had the trust the last yeare. Sir Thomas Litleton is made one of the Lords of the Treasury and its sayd the Earle of Munmoth[1] is made first Comissioner of the Navy and Sir Chr. Musgrove's son is made Master of the Ordinance. Cranborne, Lowyck and Rookwood were executed according to sentence Wednesday last. they all confessed the fact for which they were condemned. the two last being Papists seemed to dye penetent. The former sayd hee dyed a protestant of the Church of England but seemed not to have remorse for the cryme hee suffred for. On Tuesday last the Venetian ambassidors made their entrance. their garbe was black gowns laced. the representation was very stately both at the entrance and audience which was last night. I heare Pendergrasse (that) first discovered the plott hath his pardon, £3000 in mony and £500 p. ann. Sir John Tomson and Sir John Lowther are made Lords.

May 9th 1696

In my last I gave you an account why your last Bill was not paid but Munday last receiving another Letter from your sonn wherein hee intimated that most of the mony was erned by the Upholdersterer and the overplus Mr. Coffin had received of him I went the same day to his corespondent here and conducted him to Mr. Gough who sattisfyed the Bill. Wee have had much trouble of late about mony but it begins to bee easier. Indeed the London Banks making a litle stop for the payment of the greater Bills did occasion some present heat in peoples chatt, but there is no doubt but that affaire will conclude well enough. Two Irish men lately attempted to withdraw Captaine Porter from giving

[1] Charles Mordaunt, 3rd Earl of Peterborough and 1st Earl of Monmouth (1658–1735), Admiral, General and diplomatist.

further evidence by promissing him King James pardon and a £1000 p. ann. and a safe conduct into France and 600 Guyneas in hand. hee seemed to inclyne and appoynted them another meeting, and in the interim acquainted the Secretary therewith etc. when they met they paid 300 guyneas and shewed him a Bill for the remaynder. hee gave a signall and the fellows were seized and now in Newgate. Mr. Cooke was this day brought to the barr at the old Bayleigh but there not being a compleat jury the Tryall is put off to Wednesday next. wee hope the King is safely arrived in Holland but no express thereof is yet come.

May 16th 1696

You will finde in Thursday's Gazet mention made of his Majesties safe arivall in Holland etc. Sir George Rooke continews with the Fleet neer Breast and though it was taken for granted the Tholoun Fleet were gotton into Breast yet its sayd now that there is intelligence come from Admirall Rooks that they are about Bell Isle and that the Admirall is betwixt them and Breast. Wee are much unsetled here yet about our mony and all things hold very deare by reason thereof though there bee great plenty of all maner of flesh as wee are informed in the Cuntry and wee have prospect to a plentifull yeare for all things but it seemes the Gratziers will not bring their Catle to towne by reason of the scarcity of good mony. The Gooldsmiths faulter much in bringing fourth their best mony and would still put the people off with clipt. severall of them have been lately arrested though men reputed very wealthy. Guineas are scarce but wee hope a litle tyme will make great alteration for the best. Wee have now excellent good summer weather blessed bee God. I remember the books to give you notice when they come out.

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Mr. Peter Cooke as you will see by the Gazet is tryed convicted and condemned. Goodman was evidence against him which is the first tryall in which hee hath given testimony. this Mr. Cooke is Granson to our Cuntryman Sir Peter Ball who was also his Godfather.

No date, but the postmark is $\frac{M.A.}{23}$(1696)

Wednesday last Mr. Knightly being brought to the Kings bench bar to receive tryall touching the assassination etc. pleaded guilty and threw himselfe upon the Kings mercy and its thought hee will obteyne it. Wee heare nothing nether what is to bee done with Mr. Cooke who lyes condemned in Newgate. there hath been a flying report that Sir George Barclay hath written a Letter to Court to render himselfe if it bee accepted but how true I canot tell. wee are very unhappy in that the French fleet should get into Breast without our notice. Wee have had much wett weather. some dayes wee have hopes that its over. but now it rayns againe. all things are very deare with us and good mony scarce. Westminster Hall hath been most of all taken up in swearing the Lawyers this terme.

May 30th 1696

About a weeke since happened a fire at Wapping, a place below the Tower by the waters side that burnt down as I am informed 40 houses. One Captaine Robinson Captain of a man of warr defended a fleet, as I take it, of laden colliers so bravely that hee defeated the attempt of 9 or 10 privateers but its sayd hee hath lost his arme in this engagement. Mr. Peter Cooke hath notice of execution to bee on Fryday next but its supposed by some it wilbe deferred. Wee are in great straights here againe about monies but wee have good encouragement for its sayd there have been such expedients

thought on that there wilbe £100,000 next weeke coyned and that there are mills and workmen sending down to York, Exeter, and Bristoll to coyne whereby the better to supply the Cuntry. Judge Gregory[1] is dead.

June 6th 1696

Its hoped that when the Land Bank is setled wee shall have a greater plenty of mony and that now it wilbe compleated as you may see by the Gazetts. I received yisterday a Letter from Totnes that gives an account that 2 Dutch Captains come a shoare, I suppose at Torbay, and in their returne to their shipps were with 10 men cast away by reason of the roughness of the sea. Our forraign news acquaints us that the Duke of Savoy is like to bee straightly beset by the French this summer. nether of the two last convicted conspirators are yet executed. some think they wilbe both pardoned. Wee have had much rayne of late. Affaires are quiet here thanks bee to God but wee had more then ordinary guards out these Hollydays fearing lest the mob might have bin mutinous.

June 15th 1696

Wee have but litle news at present save what I presume you already know of, viz: the death of the Lord Deputy of Ireland and Sir Charles Porter being for present in his roome. Sir John Fenick is now certainly taken as also Mr. Chambers who is also in the proclamation. Chambers was taken at Canterbury. Its sayd that Mr. Cooke is to dye on Wednesday next but Mr. Knightly is repreived to a longer time. Wee have in our news papers a strange relation of the retreeving of a ship taken by the French which was retaken and brought into Biddeford by 4 seamen which surprized 7 Frenchmen that had the conduct of the shipp, killing 4 of

[1] Sir William Gregory (1624–1696).

them and the rest begging quarter. Mr. Baxters life is now out. The land banck is like to come to litle.

June 20th 1696

On Wednesday last at the Common Pleas bar by a Middlesex Jury was tryed the great Cause betwixt the Lord Montegu and the Earle of Bath about the Duke of Albemarles estate. it begun about 9 in the morning and lasted without any intermission till almost 12 the next day and then the Jury brought in, after an hours consult, their veredict for the Lord Montegu against the Earl of Bath. Sir John Fenwick is sent to the Tower and one Webber an Atturny that was taken with him to Newgate and Mr. Waugh a Scotishman that was taken at Canterbury insteed of Chambers is sent to Newgate. in his taking one thing is very remarkable. that having a screwed pistoll one of the messengers opening it found a roll of paper in it which, as they say, conteynes an Epitome of the skeme of the directions for our Fleet this summer. The sad relation of the French firing the Dutch shipps and 4 men of Warr you have in the Gazetts.

June 27th 1696

The King of Poland[1] is dead and there is like to bee a great Harangue about chusing another King. I am informed that whereas there was another Tryall to have come on this week between the Lord Montegu and the Earl of Bath, that the Earl of Bath went into the Court of Kings Bench on Munday last and told the Court hee insisted on his Peerage as to the putting off of the Cause from Tryall, pro hac vice only, and sayd the reason was because hee would indict some of the wittnesses in the former Tryall and that it would bee requisite they should bee tryed before this other cause of the Lord Montegues came on. There is notice given to

[1] John III Sobieski (1674–1696).

Sir John Fenwick to prepare for his Tryall. I heare that there was a person lately comitted to Newgate for counterfitting the new milled mony.

July 3rd 1696

Thursday last were tryed Cook and Snatt,[1] the two obsolving Parsons, and were found guilty but sentence respited till next terme. they were found guilty of the misdemeaner but not of a Conspiracy which was part of the Indictment. There is lately published by Mr. Fuller,[2] a page of the back stares to the late Queen Mary, a book that detects the contrivance of the feigned birth of the pretended Prince of Wales. I have not yet seen it but I am informed its notably penned. Wee have had here a weeke of such seasonable summer weather as wee have not had the like these 2 yeares. I hope God had regard to the prayers that were joyntly put up on the last publique Fast. The King wants mony for to supply necessary occasions very much. I wish hee may meet with an expedient to help him.

July 11th 1696

There is much discourse about the towne now of a general peace, but withall that the Duke of Savoy hath already made a seperate peace with France which is not credited. Its reported that Col. Austin is out of the Admiralty and that Mr. Bridgman that was Secretary is in his place. Sir Pat. Ward one of the Comissiors of the Customs is lately dead. There was lately one seized neere the Isle of Shipay in

[1] The ministers who attended Perkins and Friend at their executions.

[2] William Fuller (1670–1717), impostor. He was prosecuted by Titus Oates for not paying his rent. In prison 1692–1695. This publication was the pretended revelation of the warming-pan plot. In 1701 he published another version of the same story, and up to 1716 repeatedly told different stories about the birth of the Old Pretender.

Kent a man in a beggers habit that had for some tyme gon about a begging. but one night at the house where hee lodged bespoke a joynt of mutton for supper and talking somewhat more pertly than Beggers use to doe, the people of the house discovering it to the neighbors, the next day after he went out they persued him and tooke him and upon examanation and search found hee had quilted about him 500 guyneas, so hee is now in Maydston Goale upon suspition to bee the Lord Mountgomery[1] in the proclamation.

July 18th 1696

That which takes up the most of our chat of late is the seperate peace betwixt the French and the Duke of Savoy – for which its sayd the French have sung Te Deum. But that which is reported by those which speak impartially is this that its true the Duke of Savoy hath sent his Articles of peace and that there is a Cessation of Armes till 22 September but the Articles not to bee binding unless the peace bee Generall with all the Allies. It is comonly discoursed that wee are Investing of Dunkirk. Wee have had some odd accedents of late in and about this towne, viz: The last Lords day in the Afternoone a French Hugonite of considerable wealth was murdred openly in the street by a Frenchman his son in law who asking him for monys and his father refusing to give him any pluckt out a pistoll and shot him. The murderer is in Newgate and yisterday 2 remarkable things happened in Chancery lane. one was that at the Kings head an Alehouse in that street a gent going to the House of Easement dropt some mony in the vault and imployed 2 men to goe into it to seeke for it who being in the place were struck with a

[1] William Herbert, 2nd Marquis and titular Duke of Powis (d. 1745), known as Viscount Montgomery. He was imprisoned in 1689 and again at this time on suspicion of being connected with Fenwick's plot.

damp that killed them both upon the spott. likewise at the Examiners office over against the Six Clerks office one of the Clerks about 26 years old a gentile man about 10 of the clock in the morning being at the office was suddainly struck with a Frenzy went out into the street like a madman talking extravigantly and pulling off his cloaths and indeed expressing the greatest distraction imaginable. They tooke him into a house and blooded him but what became of him since I heare not but what I have written of him I had from a gent that was an eyewittness thereof. Wee have had very faire weather since Sunday but this day it rayns almost as much as ever. God is angry with us. inclosed are ye Gazets.

August 1st 1696

The last Lords day in the morning came to towne the Lord Portland[1] from his majesty to consult, as they say, about some expedients for mony and its sayd that some perticular persons have agreed to furnish his Majesty with a present supply of three hundred thousand pounds, viz: Mr. Duncumb a Goldsmith, Mr. Guy, Sir Stephen Fox, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Floyer. The people still generally complayne for want of mony tho they are constantly at work in the Tower and its sayd they have begun to coyne in other parts of the Kingdom. Yisterday being the last day according to the Act of Parliament for the Land Bank to bee effected the Comissiors they say met, but could not rayse the mony in the Act mentioned so that that is fallen to the ground. Its sayd that the two Burgesses for the Citty of York fell out and fought about the mony busines there but I canot relate the circumstances. Wee have showry weather here and feare it will prove but an indifferent Harvast.

[1] William Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland (1649–1709). One of William's Dutch followers who conducted negotiations for Peace of Ryswick.

August 8th 1696

There is but litle news remarkable stirring at this tyme. Two males came lately in but wee canot geather that any great action is intended either by sea or land this summer. the Generall discourse is of a Generall peace, which God grant provided it bee an honourable one. The Earl of Portland its generally sayd went away very well sattisfyed as to the busines hee came about having a supply of monyes. I was informed that some Chests of new mild mony were intercepted at the waters side going for France but whether true or no I know not.

August 15th 1696

Wee have had a vast number of laden Colliers arrived in our river of Thames lately from New Castle but by reason of the Lord Mayor and Aldermens going about to constitute a new fraternity of Laborers and porters which assist in order to the unloading the vessells, which the merchants seamen and others concerned also here in London conceiving they had injury thereby don unto them, they did agree for some tyme to put a stop to the unlading their shipps and uniting themselves in a body after a debate amongst them they applyed themselves to the Lords Justices who upon a faire hearing determined the poynt against the Lord Mayor and Aldermen to the sattisfaction of all those that were aggreived.

August 22nd 1696

Mr. Baxters life is mightily bought up. 22*s*. is the price currant and its thought the price will rise by reason of scarcity. if you will have mee send you one I will doe it. All our discourse here is of a peace and the Kings marriage, and this morning they talke as if there were a cessasion of arms but the wiser sort doe not beleive it.

August 29th 1696

Our discourse continues still about the Cessation of arms and our Kings speedy returne – God bring him safe – yet our last forraigne papers as I was this day informed mentions that a towne in Flanders was almost taken by surprize by a party commanded by Villeroy, but was prevented by the vigelancy of Prince Vaudemont. there was a report last night but I doe not heare it confirmed this morning that a Grazier came into Smythfeild market yisterday and contracted for the buying of much catle and had a thousand pounds in new mony, which offring in payment it was found to bee counterfit for which hee is comitted to Newgate.

September 5th 1696

I made inquiry for Hopps and perticularly of one Mr. Brewer a Kentish gent and member of Parliament who is lately come out of Kent and hee says good hops will not in their Cuntry bee under £7 a hundred this yeare. But asking of a Hop merchant hee tells mee at present they are extravigantly deare being some sold for £9 a hundred but there can bee no certaine conjecture yet made of the price. hee thinks they wilbe much cheaper but of this you shall heare more hereafter. They begin to talk as if the affaires about the generall peace begins to vanish.

The King is speedily expected home.

September 12th 1696

All our chatt here is about the King of Frances sicknes and some say death and many wagers pro. and con. of his death but all agree that hee is desperatly sick. And its sayd A treaty for a generall peace goes on and that the Earl of Sunderland, Lord Montegue and Sir Wm. Trumbald wilbe plenipotentiaries for the King of Great Brittaine. A great

many clippers and coyners are apprehended and mills seized for coyning and a proclamation is issued against one Captaine Wintour a gent of about £800 a yeare in Glocestershire and severall other his accomplices charged with the same crimes – I have taken the best care I could about the strawbury mores(?) and at last was faine to engage a seedesman to send into the Cuntry to procure them for they had none in our Gardens at the skirts of the town none neerer than Hamersmith.

September 19th 1696

They talke of the peace indifferently. some say its broken off and others that it holds. Sir John Fenwick was arraigned Thursday last. hee pleaded Not guilty to the Indictment and is to receive his Tryall on Wednesday next. Our Sessions as to the Tryall of the comon Malefactors is ended and it was a great Goale. 20 condemned to dye. many tryed for clipping and coyning, some condemned and others saved. I continew my Inquiry after the price of Hopps and am told that they were sold at Stirbitch faire some for £12 others for £10 and £9 a hundred. 3 mailes are come in and brings a large account of the Batle twixt the Imperialists and the Turk which I here omitt because you will have it in Mundays Gazet. they writ from Gent as if there were some report from the Elector of Bavaria that the Prince of Badin had forced the French Camp on the Rhyne and defeated them by dint of sword but wanted confirmation. That the French King was better then hee was but had a new swelling in his neck – that our King was returned to looe and expected at the Hague suddainly in order to his going for England – and that it appearing the French prolong the treaty the Confederates make all possible preparations to carry on the warr with vigour.

Scribled in my hast.

September 26th 1696

Sir John Fenwicks Tryall is putt off sine die and its sayd hee hath made such a confession that will merit a pardon, but they say Mr. P. Cooks pardon is retracted. Yisterday issued a proclamation for the Parliament to meet and sit 20th of October. I heare Mr. Ambrose Manaton a member of Parliament is dead. Severall that have been long in prison upon suspition of being in the late conspiracy are lately bayled out. Mr. Ferguson endeavouring the same was refused, there being oath made of two wittnesses against him, as its sayd.

October 3rd 1696

Nothing talked of here more then a peace. Sir William Clark a mercer is chosen Lord Mayor without any poll. They talke as if Serjeant Hatfell will succeed Judge Powell in the Common pleas.

October 10th 1696

The King came home Wednesday night last. The treaty of peace goes on. Its sayd Sir John Fenwick will receive his Tryall notwithstanding the discourse of his pardon. The King hath knighted our two new Sherriffs since his coming home and one Johnson a Goldsmith.

October 17th 1696

The discourse of the generall peace and the Neutrallity in Italy both very much coole. The King hath bin some tyme at Windsor this weeke. Our Chamberlaine of London Sir Leonard Robinson being dead there have been at least ten that have putt in for his place by vote of Common Hall and they are polling for it. my Neighbour Dr. Williams[1] is made Bp. of Chichester and yisterday the drums, Hoeboys

[1] John Williams (1636–1709).

and musick saluted him. Sir Owen Buckingham late Sheriffe is made Alderman in the roome of Sir — Raymond who lately lay down his gown. The Lord Cheif Justice Holts brother hath Mr. Giles Lidcots place of Accountant Generall in the Custome house.

October 24th 1696

The Parliament meeting on Tuesday the King received them with a gracious and pithy speech. they presently voted an Address which they delivered yisterday which was short and accurate that they would to the uttermost assist him to finish the warr against the French or compell them to an honourable peace, to which the King returned an noble and generous answer to the great sattisfaction of his good subjects but heartburning of his enimies. The Duke of Shrewsbury[1] is dangerously ill by a fall from his horse and the Lord Pembrooke is not well. The Parliament have done but litle else as yet but next weeke will fall upon the great concerne of the Nation. As to the news of the great incursions the French have made upon the Newfoundland to the great damage, as tis feared, of our Westerne merchants, I make no doubt you have er now heard. Wee heare likewise of a terrible Earthquake in Antego[2] which hath don great damage there. Yisterday ten malefactors were executed at Tiburne, some for clipping and coyning, one for carrying news into France formerly a stationer in Chancery lane, his name Pike – hee was quartered – and the Frenchman that killed his father in law who hath bin for some tyme repreived, and as I this day am informed, hee was carried in a Coach to St. Giles Church some tyme before the rest where was a sermon preached to him.

[1] Charles Talbot, Duke of Shrewsbury (1660–1718).
[2] Antigua.

October 31st 1696

The late vote in the House of Commons touching the value of the old hammered coyne and restrayning it to the first of January next hath put the people very much out of temper againe. The lords have made an Excellent Address to the King as well as the Commons. there is talk of a new plott discovered and that they are inspecting it at Court. some say Sir John Fenwick hath detected perticular persons concerned in it but of this wee shall heare more after a while. There hath bin a debate in the House of Lords about the Earl of Baths waving his priveledge in the suits 'twixt him and my Lord Montegue but no order yet made in it. The weather here hath bin very warme for 5 or 6 dayes last past. Wee have abundance of rotten sheepe here and never more plenty of mutton. I was told this morning the sheepe were sold in Smythfeild last Fryday for 1*s.* 6*d.* a sheepe.

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I have been the more cautious in what I have written above of the busines of coyne because the printed votes were short and it may bee I have not well remembred them. One Mr. Dorrell a sitting Alderman is stept aside into our Alsatia, some say with great sums of mony.

November 8th 1696

Sir John Fenwick having accused some noble and worthy gents, of great reputation and propty[1] of the Government, of some crimes to bee comitted against the Government of which the House of Commons having notice sent for Sir John Fenwick to bee brought before them yisterday at 4 of the clock at the bar of the said House where examining him touching the accusation and hee being no ways able to make out the same and refusing so to doe about eleaven of the clock at night they voted a Bill of Attaynder to bee brought

[1] Property?

in against him after they had voted the said accusation false and scandalous so that now they intend not to trouble the Judges with him and Mr. Peter Cooke that was condemned is repreived but till Fryday next and then its sayd hee wilbe executed. Goodman one of the Evidence hath for some dayes absented himselfe. Last night likewise the Judges sate by speciall Comission at the old Bayly till eleaven of ye clock to try certaine pyrats for robbing on the sea amongst which was one Captaine Vaughan, who tooke the Diamond Frigot. hee was arraigned for piracy and high treason who was with the others found guilty. Yisterday was appointed for debating the busines of coyne and mony in the House of Commons but they came to no conclusion but have adjourned the same to bee further debated on Thursday next. The people for the most part will take none but Guineas and milld mony here.

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The persons as I am informed that Sir John Fenwick hath defamed are The Duke of Shrewsbury Admirall Russell Lord Malborough Lord Godolphin and al.

November 14*th* 1696

Yisterday Sir John with his Councell assigned appeared to make defence according to order, which after long debates was put off till Munday next for a further debate. The House has bin this day upon coyne and as I heare are inclyning that all old mony unclipt shall goe according to weight that is 5*s*. 2*d*. an ounce in comon pay – 5*s*. 4*d*. allowed at the Mynt if brought in to bee coyned and 5*s*. 8*d*. in loans to the King or in payment of taxes but after the first of July none to pass. The last Lords day at night was a great search for suspected persons that are come lately from France on some ill Designe. many were taken up but I doe not heare any of them that were perticularly sought for were taken.

November 21st 1696

The Bill against Sir John Fenwick is like to pass in the House of Comons. it hath bin twice read and should have bin read this day a third tyme but the Comittee have tyme till Munday to make their report and then it will bee read the third tyme. I am informed Sir Joseph Williamson is of the privy Councel. That which the House agreed upon this day touching the coyne, as I am informed, is as followeth, viz: That all clipt mony brought into the mynt shall goe at *5s.* *4d.* per ounce till the first of July next: that all clipt mony bee paid to the King till the first of June at *5s.* *8d.*: till the first of February upon loans and arreares of taxes at the same price and that all unclipt mony to goe also by weight.

November 29th 1696

The Commons have passed the Bill of Attainder against Sir John Fenwick and sent it up to the Lords and they are to consider of it on Tuesday next. And the Bill for Coyne is also passed by the Commons and sent down by the Lords with but very litle Amendment. There was six of the seamen convicted at the old Bayly by speciall Comission for piracy, some of them being Everyds crew, executed Wednesday last. But Captain Vaughan is repreived. There is a relation of one Burton a Somersetshire Grazier that pretended to bee robbed of 800 Guyneas and made oath thereof in order to sue the hundred and hue and cry was made etc. But the said Grazier having bin since under some trouble of mynd hath confessed that the robbery was a contrivance and that the men that lent him the Guyneas robbed him by consent. the men were taken up but have bin since bayled they being worth tenn thousand pounds and Burton absconds. I the rather give credit to this relation because I had it from the mouth of a very honest Atturny who is my Neighbour and had orders from the Grazier to sue the Cun-

try. Wee have had much rayne and abundance of rotton mutton. I heare that the Controvercy betwixt the Earle of Bath and Lord Montegue are like to bee accomodated.

December 7th 1696

Thursday last the King passed the Bill for coyne which will come out fourthwith in prynt, also another for coyning of Guineas and on Thursday night hee prickt sherriffs and one Mr. Ratcliffe stands for Devon. Sir John Fenwick is to bee heard on Tuesday next before the Lords by his Councell. The Duke of Shrewsbury is dangerously relapsed. The Keeper of Newgate is comitted by the Lords to the Gatehouse for being too kinde to Sir John Fenwick.

December 12th 1696

The greatest chatt at present is about the squadron of French that lye in and about Breast and the many vessells prepared to carry them away but where is the great question. The House of Commons yisterday and today have been upon a new poll Bill. the mony to bee geathered weekly none excepted but almes folk and to pay according to their estates and not quallity. I could relate a passage, if you have not heard of it already, that is very comecall, touching a certaine Senator, your Antagonist in law touching an account etc., who as I am informed was met with two cheats in the street who had dropped a Guyny designedly as a beat, but unknown to him. of this Guyny hee coming by when it was taken up was to have a share. they all 3 went to a taverne to devide the prize. The cheats had cunningly dropt a pack of false cards and by some tricks on them suffred him first to winn and having disordered his passions thereby afterwards turned the wheele and gott all the Guyneas the Squire had about him after which hee went to a freind for more and lost them. The whole loss they say amounts to a 100 guy-

neas. But I close this with another instance that is tragicall. On Thursday morning youńg Mr. Hamden cutt his own throat but is not dead, I being told this day by his freind that there is hopes hee may recover.

December 19th 1696

The Lords sate till one of the clock this morning upon Sir John Fenwicks Bill which was read a 2d tyme and comitted and Tuesday next it comes on againe and its beleived it will pass. I heare the Bishops of Bath and Wells and Exeter were against it. they voted the 2d reading and comittment last night by the majority of 18 voyces. The Commons have voted 3*s*. of the pound on land and making up the rest on the method I last wrote of. Our Sessions is ended and neer thirty condemned and many of them for clipping and coyning. Mr. Hamden is dead of his wound. Wee have a very severe season of frost and snow.

There is a great deale of discourse about the French preparations at Breast and its sayd King James is there: But Sir Cloudsly Shovell is at sea with a good fleet which as is supposed will prevent their designe.

December 26th 1696

I received your last letter in which you mention the sending a Box of Cocks which wee have this day received and both I and my wife for the same togeather with our humble service returne unto your selfe and Lady many thanks. Wee have not yet opened the barrell but intend to doe it before wee sleepe but its come safe and sound and wilbe of much use unto us these Holy days and I hope the Box which I sent with the bookes is come safe to your hands. On Wednesday last the Bill passed in the House of Lords against Sir John Fenwick and caryed by 7 voyces but the Lords having adjourned for a week the same canot receive the

Royall assent till they meet. you will find by the Gazets that Sir Charles Porter Lord Chancellor of Ireland is dead of an Appoplexy and Sir J. Trever Master of the Rolls hath lately received here a great Windfall. Mr. Clutterbooke one of the six Clerks being lately dead and that place worth £5000 or £6000 is in his disposall. I mentioned in my last the death of Mr. Hamden and I am credibly informed that having some hours of intervall betwixt the wound and his death hee had a great remorse on his mynd for his being debauched by some great ones that hee had in his later days kept company with and desired those about him to tell them that now hee had a full sense of a deity and that verily there was a God. it seemes hee was once very pious but ill company reduced him to a fearefull backsliding which brought him to this misserable end. Wee had here a dismall Thaw which begun with a rayne. The ground hard underneath so that the people for some hours could scarce pass in the streets about their ordinary busines. I am ashamed the blotts should fall in my letter and begg your pardon. inclosed are the Gazets. I wish you a merry New yeare and close.

January 2nd 1696(7)

The Lords will sit againe Thursday next.

Sir John Fenwick is in Irons. The House of Commons have been very busy this Christmas about Regulating prisons and abolishing all privilidged places.[1] The Keepers of all other capitall prisons are in custody, viz: Newgate, the Fleet, and Kings bench. Wednesday was our execution day and 10 persons were drawn on Hurdles for clipping and coyning. those in — Dungeon refused that morning to come fourth till such tyme as the Jaylor threatened to shoot them. a woman servant to one in F — street being under the suspition of her mistress for having stolen a silver spoone and

[1] Whitefriars and the Savoy.

her mistriss opening her trunk found therein a young dead child whereupon the servant was presently comitted to Newgate.

January 9th 1696(7)

The discourse is revived with some warmth againe about the Treaty of peace and its sayd the Plenipotentiaries on all sides are making great preparations. The Bill of Attaynder against the absent delinquents concerned in the late conspiracy as also for longer deteyning in prison those that are in custody and not yet tryed is passed both Houses and its sayd with some other Bills that are ready with that also against Sir John Fenwick will receive the Royall assent on Tuesday next. Sir Thomas Kensy Alderman of London is lately dead. The Capitation Bill I heare was read againe in the House of Commons this day as also that for duty on plate.

Undated but probably January 16th 1697

I have inclosed according to my promiss sent you a specemen of Chansys Survey of Hertfordshire but could wish it had not been so cumbersome in regard of postage. Since the passing the Bill of Attaynder against Sir John Fenwick the House of Lords have bin busied in their Inquiry into a certaine paper relating to Sir John Fenwick and which some Ladys have accused the Earle of Monmouth to bee concerned in. The lords heard the Earle of Monmouths defence the last night and afterwards sent him to the Tower. This weeke two women, viz: Mrs. Price[1] and Mrs. Lester had a cause heard at Serjeants Inn before a Court of Delegats

[1] In 1696 Elizabeth Price had issued a pamphlet entitled 'The True Countess of Banbury's Case.' She claimed to have been married to 'Lord Banbury' at Verona in 1692. He denied her statement and, in fact, was legally married at the time to Elizabeth Lester.

touching their clayme to the Lord of Banbury as a husband which should bee his right wife and it went for Mrs. Lester. One Sanders master of a ship which its sayd caried over Goodman into France is taken and brought to towne. There is one Whyte that lyes under condemnation for clipping and coyning and having had repreives for some tyme in order to bee examined by the House of Commons hath exposed one Mr. Stroude as privy to some bad actions and I heare it is R. Stroude of Newnham but if so I hope hee will cleere himselfe. On Tuesday last one Mr. Ourlabeer of the Inner Temple upwards of 60 yeares of age having dyned with a Relation neer Westminster at his house and after dinner playing with him a game at Tables In play dropt as his freind thought one of the Tablemen and so turning his head and leaning on his elbow as if hee would take it up his freind perceiving it long a doing lookt in his face and perceived hee was struck with death and so it proved for hee never spake after but dyed imediately. I knew Mr. Ourlabeer. hee was a very sober gent and the same day one Mr. Shaw of the Custom house having a sonn at the Temple came to see him and dyed suddainly in his sons chamber. The House of Comons is going on with the Bill of Capitation and the Excise on plate.

January 23rd 1696(7)

The House of Commons have neere finished the Capitation Bill. On Thursday The Weavers appeared in a rude multitude at the dore of the House of Commons to press the passing of a Bill against the East India Companies bringing here of wrought silks. they were reprooved by the House and the Sherriffs and Justices sent for to receive orders to keepe them in a better decorum and that evening the same mobb made an assault at the East India house and broke the windows and pulld down the rayles and made an endeavour

to get into the House but upon the Lord Mayor and Sherriffs coming with a guard they were dissipated. only a few of them taken and Imprisoned. Sir John Fenwicks execution was appointed for this day on Tower Hill and a scaffold for that purpose erected but yisterday upon his petition to the House of Lords for a weeks further respite for his better preparation for death The Lords addressed the King for that purpose and His Majesty hath granted him time till Munday 1st of February. many here dye dayly suddaine deaths. wee have had very changeable weather of late. yisterday a great thaw and this day a hard frost.

January 30th 1696(7)

It seemes I was mistaken in my last touching Sir John Fenwicks repreive for that night I wrote the Letter it was confidently asserted that hee was repreived till Munday sevenight but it fell out to bee otherwise, viz: but till the Thursday following but I had my Intelligence publiquely affirmed by the Solicitor to the Admiralty. But thus it was That on Wednesday a petition being delivered to both Houses for his Banishment or perpetuall Imprisonment insted of Beheading the same was by majority of voyces rejected by both Houses and on Thursday between 11 and 12 hee was Beheaded on Tower Hill being caried thither in a Mourning Coach I suppose his own. Hee was but a very little while on the scaffold. Dr. White the late Bishop of Peterborough and two other ministers with him. hee sayd nothing to the Spectators scarce looking on them but delivered his speech to the Sherriffs which is since printed and here inclosed. Hee behaved himselfe well composed enough as far as I can understand that did not see him. Yisterday the King was at the House of Lords and passed the great tax Bill called the Capitation and two private Bills. Wee have had severall persons more since my last that have dyed

suddainly one of them being Mr. Newports lady daughter to Baron Atkins who dyed Satturday last as she was going to play a game at Cards.

Undated, but endorsed February 6th 1696(7)

I received yours last night and this day made Inquiry after the Bookes mentioned therein. As to the King of Denmarks Musæum upon Inquiry I was informed that a few of them about 20 are brought over. Smyth and Walford nor Swall which are the great dealers in that sort of learning had none of them but Mr. Bennett at the Halfe Moone had one. his man shewed it mee. its a thin fol. with many fine Sculptures but hee sayd his master would not abate anything of 25*s*. The 4th vol. of Dr. Th. Goodwins works are coming out but I canot heare they are. also the other vol. of Dr. Lightfoot though I inquired. I inquired also after Puffendorfs introduction but could not bee informed whether out or not but of that you shall have fuller satisfaction in my next. The Great mony Act is come out and inclosed I send you the Abstract to prepare you against the Act comes. I have lost a very good acquaintance since my last Letter, viz: Mr. Slingsby Bethell once Sherriffe of London who dyed Thursday last being 84 yeares of age. hee was a man of great knowlege and understanding and had bin a great Travailer. I sate a good while with him the weeke before his death and discoursed with mee very hartily and brought mee to the dore. There fell out a remarkable passage occasoned by a fever's(?) providence in the family of a Non-Conformist minister which I knew, viz: a young man, a citizens son, by name Mart, being arraigned for robbing on the highway with 4 more, the other 4 were executed but hee escaped and this minister having compassion on him By his labour and paynes brought him into a temper of a seeming change so that hee expressed much penitency and came often to vissit

the Minister who received him with much candor but the last weeke in his absence came to his house and brought 3 or 4 more with him, bound his family caried away £200 in mony and goods and gave order to his comrades to kill all in the House but one or other was against it saying that tying was enough. Mart is since taken and in Newgate.

I am from home and my writing tackle but bad.

February 13th 1696(7)

The Comission is sealed in which the Comissioners are named for raysing the mony in the Capitation Act and they are to have 20*s*. a day every day they sit. Yisterday being the last day of the Terme The Lord Aylsbury and Lord Mountgomery were brought to the Kings Bench barr. the first was bayled out but the last caryed back to prison. The plate Bill they say will not pass but they are about to set six-pence a Bushell on Mault. I am told just now by a member of the House of Commons that the last night the Goaler of Winchester brought up some prisoners to bee turned over to the Kings bench and they lodged at the Lamb Inn on the Backside of St. Clements, where, in the night, a company of those that obsconded in the Whitefryers sallyed out and came to the Lamb, broke open the dores and carryed away the prisoners of which complaint was made to the House.

February 20th 1696(7)

Last night one Hastings was killed by one Lewis, the last as I am informed is Agitant in the Lord of Bath's regiment and brother in law to Hastings. Lewis is fled. There hath bin some discovery made lately by an Astrologer of some Treasure hid by the Jesuits in the Savoy and many have bin yisterday and this day sett on work to digg and a Guard attending them but its thought will signify nothing. one Mr. Noys of the Temple dyed suddainly 2 days since.

February 27th 1696(7)

All our chatt here is about the meeting of the plenipotentiaries and its sayd there wilbe a peace. The Commons have this day voted 4*s*. per Hogshead upon Cider for two yeares and a quarter. Yisterday a soldier was shoot to death in Hyde parke for killing his corporall because hee appointed him Sentinell at Kensington at a post hee liked not. Since my last one Mr. Dekins who maryed Sir — Bucknall the great Brewer's widdow fought in Hide park a duell with his son in law Mr. Bucknall and killed him. Dekins is in custody.

March 6th 1696(7)

Our Turky fleet is arrived to the great sattisfaction of our merchants. The Lord Craven being neer 90th yeares of age and having been lately vissited with a sore fitt of sickness even to such a degree that his phisicons gave him over, is meraculously recovered. I heard Sir Thomas Day, member of Parliament for Bristoll say that hee thought the 10 p. Cent. on the woollen manufacture would not proceede by reason . . . it would put a great stop to the work of many poor people these hard tymes. The Bill against buying and selling of places will pass and the Parliament will in a short time now finish their busines for this session.

March 14th 1696(7)

Wee have great hopes of a peace and Plenipotentiaryes, as is sayd, will bee gon in a few dayes. There was yisterday a noys about the towne that a designe was layd by Gunpowder to blow up the Kings lodgings at Kensington but this day its sayd the report proves false which was occasioned by some soldiers of a guard smugling of some powder to make a gaine of it for which they were taken into custody in order to bee punished. Wednesday last being execution day one

Mart a very young man was executed for the robbing with some others of Mr. Pomfret a non-conformist ministers house of which I formerly wrote. hee dyed with the greatest hardnes of heart as has bin known. At the tyme of the robbery being treated with all love and respect. When hee let his accomplices in, hee encited them to murder all that were in the house, but they being of a softer temper only bound them. his father is a sober and religious person and a man of considerable wealth. his mother a religious woman and hanged herselfe being distracted at the trouble that possessed her by reason of her sons lewdness. hee disdained all admonitions for preparation against death and expired with great Impudence. Captain Wintour[1] reported a great clipper in Glocestershire being arraigned in that County this Assizes the Grand Jury did not find the bill: its thought by reason of the faint prosecution of his Accuser who was a person of note. I just now heare that Captaine Wintour was tryed by a petty Jury and acquitted.

March 20th 1696(7)

Dr. Goodwins last volum is now out but I am informed by Mr. Brown who is one of the undertakers for Chancyes Survey of Hartfordshire that they will not begin to print it till they have subscribers enough to encourage them to doe it and asked mee if I would subscribe for you. I told him I had no orders but would write to you this post. no mony is to bee paid down. There being lately some hesitations made by the House of Lords about passing the Weavers bill they last night melt tumultiously and attempting some rudenes at a gents house belonging to the East India House the Citty trayne bands were up and in their endeavoring to disperse them killed two of them and woonded 6 or 7 more. the

[1] See letter of September 12th 1696, *ante*.

trayne bands are up this day and God knows what the issue may bee. Two Gooldsmiths partners of very great note in the Citty have refused payment of mony for some days last past and are thereby supposed to bee under some ill circumstances. the French Plenipotentiaryes are arrived in Flanders and its sayd ours wilbe gon the next weeke. A barbarous murder was committed lately in St. Albans by a youth on his own mother cutting her throat as she lay ill on her bed and his father coming into the roome just as hee had don it attempted to doe the same to his father but hee struggling and crying out was assisted by the Neighbours. The Sun is in custody so that wee live in an age that is the very sink of all maner of vice and inequity.

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It seems it was the Kings Guards that did execution on the mobb. I heare just now that the Lord mayer is taken with the dead palsy.

March 27th 1697

I shall take care to send the bookes you write for But I am apt to think you are mistaken in your choyce of Crouches bookes for they are generally but trifles and not much regarded by the skilfull in learning being collections jumbled togeather and exposed to make a present penny and fit only for the purchass of ordinary people but however unless you contradict your order they shallbe sent. This weeke the Earle of Portland was Instaled Knight of the Garter at Windsor where was a great entertaynment at the Solemnity. The Neutrallity in Catalonia is very ill resented. The cold weather and contrary wind for the Newcastle store hath raysed Coales to £3 10*s*. the chaldron. I heard just now that Sir Jos. Williamson one of the plenepotentiaries is taken ill. The Earl of Sunderland is in great favour at Court.

April 3rd 1697

Wee have had an unhappy disaster at sea lately, the French having taken our Bilbow fleet and 3 Dutch men of war that were their Convoy. I know not whether I mentioned in my last that a Parson was condemned at Derby for clipping and coyning and 2 boys at Leicester for a rape. Wee have had a fire lately in Southwork which burnt down Sir George Meggs house to witt a famous Brewhouse. A son of Sir Edward Seymour hath fought another and dangerously woonded him. it is that son that was a Col. in the Kings Guards.

There was a woman executed at York assizes for baking a live child of 4 yeares old that her husband had by another wife. My Lord Pembrookes coaches are gon and hee goes himselfe the next weeke.

April 10th 1697

Its sayd that the Lord of Pembrook begins his embassy Munday next and that Sir Joseph Williamson being not recovered goes after him. The Lord Craven[1] is now dead in the 83d yeare of his age as is reported. The Lord Mohan hath lately fought with another and is woonded. The King wilbe gon for Flanders the later end of this moneth. A Soldier was shot to death this weeke on Tower Hill for deserting his colours.

The House is now very thinn most of the cuntry gent being gon into the Cuntry.

April 17th 1697

As to the King of Denmarks Musæum My Lord Keeper

[1] William Craven, 1st Earl of Craven (1606–1697), was 91. Lapthorne gives his age as 90 in letter of March 6th 1696/7. Lord Craven had been in his earlier years a devoted follower of James I's daughter Elizabeth – 'the White Queen of Bohemia' – and was said to be privately married to her.

hath that for his library which I first bought, you seeming to decline the having it. Now because hee is a great Judge of learning and bookes and there being but 2 left of these bookes, 20 only brought over, I thought that when you should heare that his Lordshipp had yours that you might wish for one when it could bee had and therefore have this day bought another at the same price and put it into the box so that now there is but one left and I suppose who ever buys it will pay sawce for it. I hope it wilbe an ornament to your Library. Yisterday the King came to the House of Lords and signed about 22 or 23 bills and then made a short speech and thanked them and the Commons for their liberall assisting him with moneys and prorogued them to the 13 May. The Plenepotentiarys wayt for a winde, their goods being on Board and his Majesty, if the winde servs, goes away on Thursday next.

There is news come of a fight in Flanders at a place neere Dyns and that the French are routed and 3000 of their men slayne but of this wee must expect the certainty in Mundays Gazet. Its discoursed, notwithstanding this news, that wee shalbe sure of a peace and that the King gives some hints of the likelihood of it in his speech. Last night a fire happened in Channell-row at Westminster and burnt down some say 7 or 8 others say more houses.

April 24*th* 1697

The King went hence this morning for Flanders. The King of Sweden is dead who was Garantee in the Treaty but its sayd hee hath left things so as that his death will not hinder the peace hee having left the Queen with 3 other Ministers of State Administrators of the Government till his son arrives at 18 who is now 15 yeares old. Our King before his going was pleased to make some alterations in the offices at Court.

The Earle of Sunderland is made Lord Chamberlain upon the resignation of the Earle of Dorset.

May 1st 1697

The King landed at a place called Orange Polder in Holland on Tuesday last. amongst the late changes I heare your Leiftenant the Earle of Stanford is made Chancellor of the Dutchy of Lancaster. a good (passage) was just now told but whether true or not is a question, that the post was assaulted and some things tooke from him out of the bag about 3 of the clock in the morning yisterday at Charing Cross. Wee shall now expect by every foraign post great news. There is another book out of Doctor Bury's, Rector of Exeter Colledge Oxford, the title Latitudinarius Orthodoxus. some say it borders upon socinism.

May 8th 1697

Wee dayly expect here the good tydings of a cessation of armes in order to the concluding a peace. on Munday next the Duke of Ormond, Lord Cutts, Lord Bellasis, and Sir Joseph Williamson goe hence, as its sayd, for France. Yisterday was a Tryall at the Kings Bench barr betwixt the Earle of Bath and the Lord Montegue upon an impeachment of some of the Lord Montegues wittnesses in the former Tryall. the Tryall lasted till 5 or 6 of the clock in the morning and then the Court adjourned till Munday but I heare the Jury have given in a private veredict which canot bee published till Munday when the Court sits again but it is supposed to bee for the Lord Montegue.

May 15th 1697

The veredict I mentioned in my last was given on the Munday following for the Earl of Bath, the wittness being one Harris being convicted by the said veredict of perjury and on the same Munday was another Tryall of another

wittness, viz: one Duke. the Court sate likewise all that night and that veredict given in also for the Earl of Bath, the said Duke being convicted, and the Tryalls of the rest are put off till the next Terme. Its sayd as if the Lord Montegue intends to take the same course against the Earle of Bath's wittnesses. Wee have received ill news that a considerable number of our best India shipps outward bound are taken by the French and that in the fight betwixt our convoy and the French men of warr one of our men of warr, viz: the Saphire is sunck. Its sayd the French have invested Aeth and wee heare nothing of a peace.

May 22nd 1697

Wee have but litle news att present by reason that two forraigne posts that have bin due for some days past are missing though the winds have bin favourable which causes feare as if they are taken by the French or some other disaster hath occurred. The Grand Jury for Middlesex at the end of the last Terme presented the printing of dangerous and ill bookes lately published and such like and desired that the bookes might bee censured and the Authors punished. There is lately brought from beyond sea to the Tower of London a beast called Hyæna, the first that hath bin known here being the same that Gessier and Plyny wrote about, of that fierceness and strength that it will crush and break the greatest oxbones and eat them.

May 29th 1697

Yisterday morning came in a forraign post which brings news that our Armies are seperated in order to some great attempt. That Aeth holds out and was not taken when the pacquet came away but it is very probable by this time it is in the enimies' hands by reason our forraign Intelligence doth not intimate that the Confederates have any designe to

releive it. There is but litle prospect of a peace. There hath bin and yet continues a great famine in Sweadland – also a dreadfull fire in Warsaw another in the cheefe town in Poland another in a town in Transilvania and another at Segeden in Hungary and all broke out about the same tyme tho the particular places at a vast distance one from the other. I have but litle news to write and therefore close my letter with a comecall passage to make you laugh: viz one Sir — Brooks son to Sir John Brook's of Yorks, who when living I knew well, at eight of the clock in the morning one day this week was introduced into the company of a wayting mayd supposed to bee a fortune but worth nothing – having never seen her before in his life was maryed to her the same day before twelve.

June 4th 1697

Wee have not much news here. Wee doe not yet heare that Aeth is taken by the French but expect it according to our just feare the next male. A great many of our men here both Horse and foot are lately imbarqued for Flanders. The lord Chancellor Somers[1] hath bin lately very ill at his Cuntry house at Clapham in so much as yisterday being the first day of the Terme the writts which should have been sealed in Westminster Hall were carried to Clapham to bee sealed but I am told hee is in a way of recovery. Wee have bin threatned with a scarcity here for want of raine but blessed bee God wee have had abundance of moderate showers for these 4 days last past. There is abundance of debauchery and open profaness amongst us and litle notice taken of it by those that should punish it and therefore may justly expect insteed of peace severer Judgments. The Lord grant that wee may in tyme lay it to heart.

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[1] John Somers, Baron Somers (1651–1716).

The Lord Mountgomery yisterday prayed for a Habeas Corpus which was granted and Mr. Beare appearing at the Kings Bench bar the consideration of his concerns are put off till the later end of the Terme.

June 12th 1697

The Gazette will informe you of the surrender of Aeth. our greatest feare at present is about Ponti his meeting the Spanish Galleotts. wee doe not heare of the proceeding of the peace. Severall of late have been apprehended and imprisoned for coyning. The Earl of Bath hath convicted another of the wittnesses against him and the Court sate all night and till 9 next day in trying it. The Earle of Macklesfeild is endeavouring to bee devorced from his Lady and there hath bin some proceeding in it this weeke.

June 19th 1697

The 3 great subjects of affaires of which wee expect the success is, whether the Spanish Gallioons or plate Shipps have escaped Monsieur Ponti: the (undecipherable); and the seige of Barcelonia. On Thursday last in the neighbourhood of Somerset house in the evening was a great enterteynment of Musick and singing in so much as that part of the Strand was so crouded with coaches and sedans that I having occasion to goe that way could hardly pass and I heard it reported that it was designed for the Prince of Wales birthday but the Lord Feversham hearing of it put it off till Thursday. The Lord Mountgomery son to the Marquesse Powys this day moved to bee bayled upon an affidavit that a pestelentiall feaver now raigned in the prison of Newgate which was opposed by the Atturny Generall but at last the Court granted it.

June 26th 1697

The Earle of Peterborough[1] is dead and the honor descended to the Earle of Monmouth. I doe not heare of any likelihood of a peace this summer. wee have had severall strange accedents this weeke namely a pinnace running against London Bridge broke to peeces and 5 men in her drowned. also in Mr. Phipps a Councellors house within a few dores of Sir Walter Youngs in Bedford roe by Grays Inn, a woman being there, as I suppose in the nature of a mayd, her husband coming to see her, who had lived formerly with Judge Nevill as his coachman, on Sunday last in Mr. Phipps his house killed her by cutting her throat. Its sayd hee was jealous of her. The fellow escaped but through vexation of mynd hath since rendred himselfe being willing to dye, and 2 litle boys on Satturday last casting stones at a dogg that was to bee drowned in a ditch neer my house it happened that one of them insteed of hitting the dog hit the other boy with a stone or brickbat in the head so that hee dyed within a few hours after. The one that threw it was but 8 years old.

The safe arrivall of our Virginia fleet comforts the hearts of the people here.

July 3rd 1697

Things with us seems at present not to yeild the best aspect. two of our outward bound East India shipps are taken and it is very doubtfull whether a 3d bee not taken. Barcellonia is beseiged both by sea and land by the French and no likelihood of a peace this summer. Wee have had many ill accedents of late in and about London. I know not whether I mentioned in my last that casting away of the pin-

[1] Henry Mordaunt, 2nd Earl of Peterborough (1624?–1697), was succeeded by his nephew the 1st Earl of Monmouth of the second creation.

nace against London bridge in which 8 persons appere to bee drowned. one of them, one Drew of Exeter. they had Flanders lace and Ingotts of gould which they brought from Holland and some say it was their flight from the Custome house officers that exposed them to this fate. Severall of late have been seized with Appoplexies and amongst the rest a perticular good freind of mine Sir Thomas Pope .... Kt. of the shire for Hartfordshire dyed lately as I am informed of an Appoplexy and I heare one Mr. Quick a Devonshire man an Nonf: Minister had 3 fitts of it as hee was lately come to the Bath. And on Tuesday last a french protestant Refugee woman murdered one Mrs. Pullein her freind – –by Charing Cross and after robbed her but is since taken and is put into Newgate. likewise one Mr. Barnwell Undersherriff in a frenzy threw himselfe out of a window and dyed. I also was well acquainted with him. I wish I had pleasanter matters to entertayne you with.

July 10th 1697

They tell mee that they are going on in the printing of Chancys survey of Hartfordshire which when extant shalbe sent. Wee have received some better news than what I wrote in my last, viz: The Elector of Saxonys[1] being chosen King of Poland, the holding out of Barcelonia and 3 East India shipps safe arrival at Cales and some glimpses of an approaching peace, which if upon honourable terms God send it us. Wee have a report that in an East India shipp outward bound, the shipps crew entring into a conspiracy against the Captaine murdered him and cast him overboard and after they had divided the spoile are gon a pirating like

[1] On John Sobieski's death eighteen candidates for the Polish throne sprang into the field. Frederick Augustus, Elector of Saxony, arrived last with fresh funds for bribery, and was successful. He was crowned as Augustus II on September 15th 1697.

Every and his crew. if the news hold it is a very barbarous fact. that part of our Army that remayns with us is now encampt on Black-heath neer Greenwich about 6 miles from this towne.

July 17th 1697

Our last news seemes to import as if Barcelonia could not hold out much longer and that there seemes to bee some difference yet depending about the Election of the King of Poland but when the Elector of Saxony comes thither in person that dispute wilbe at an end. there was another conference lately by the Earl of Portland and Bouffleers betwixt the two Camps but what it concerns wee yet know not.

On Wednesday last the Lords Justices were at the Camp on Blackheath and the same day dined at the Earle of Rumneys house at Greenwich. Yisterday the criminalls condemned last sessions were executed amongst which the Frenchwoman that comitted that barbarous murder on Mrs. Pullein was executed at Charing Cross over against Suffolk street. She dyed a papist.

The man that killed his wife in Mr. Phipps his house is repreived, the circumstances of his case rendring him an object of pitty. On Munday last in the morning, it is discoursed that a blazen star was seen in and about this town which gave for some tyme a prodigious shining light but in a short tyme vanisht.

July 24th 1697

The Generall discourse at this time here is about peace and its confidently asserted that it will speedily bee perfected. It hath been likewise reported that the seege of Barcelonia is raised but it wants confirmation. Mr. Peeter Cooke that hath been a long time convicted in Newgate for being in the late conspiracy hath pleaded his Majesty's par-

don and goes speedily for Holland according to order and not to return without leave. its sayd Mr. Ra. Gray brother to the Earl of Tankervill[1] is nominated Governor-Generall of Barbadoes. At Ashwell in Hartfordshire two men intimate companions as its sayd lately hanged themselves – £400 in mony being found in the custody of one of them at the tyme of death and also this weeke one Brooks a Clerk lately of the Examiners office in Chancery also hanged himselfe. these are tragicall stories.

July 31*st* 1697

All discourse here againe is of a peace and nothing but and some affirme that it is concluded with England and Holland and fourthwith to bee don also with the Emperor and Spain. I beleive it to bee so that it wilbe don by peecemeales. I heard one read out of manuscript one article relating to King James that was to bee included, viz: that hee and his Court to depart out of the Kingdom of France and none that adhere to his service to bee protected there, and its sayd there is or wilbe a generall cessation of armes and its certaine our King wilbe the beginning of this week at Breda . . . and it is supposed that there is some private agreement between the two Princes that no Hostillity shalbe carried on . . . or else the King would now bee cut off from the Camp.

August 7th 1697

As formerly I wrote of the discourse of peace so its more talked of now then ever and it is beleived by most that it is privatly concluded though not yet published. Wee have very litle news stirring here at present. the towne being almost empty of persons of note by reason of the season of the yeare. here goes a comecall relation of a strange match

[1] Forde Grey, Earl of Tankerville (d. 1701).

between the Lady Kingston widdow to the Lord Kingston[1] an Irish lord and a Leiftenant of the Kings foot, that she having a mynd to marry him sent him a challenge to meet at a tyme and place to fight not naming the challenger and hee coming there though she was unknowne to him and looking about for the challenger at last saw a Lady in a mask who told him she was the person hee looked for and then told him . . . and after some discourse carryed him off in her coach and in a very few howers marryed him and its sayd she hath £1500 p. annum estate and worth £10,000 in mony. this is the chatt but whether true I canot vouch. There was about a weeke since a great Hubbub in the Temple on an attempt to Arrest Mr. Borlase of Cornwall. the gents of the house resisting the officers and tooke him from them. many were wounded in it and some of them have since had a conferrence with my Lord Chief Justice about it and the Templars justify their defence having as they say antient priveledges for so doing.

[1] Probably the widow (*née* Harbord) of Robert King, 2nd Baron Kingston (d. 1693). If so, apparently the story was untrue, for this lady died at Chiswick in 1698 and was buried as the widow of Lord Kingston.

Abergavenny, Lord, 198
Abingdon, James Bertie, 1st Earl of, 50
Abjuration oath, 70
Ackland, Sir Hugh, 93
Alba Regalia, surrender of, 32
Albemarle, Duchess of, 147
Albemarle, Duke of, 125, 201
Allibon, Sir Richard, 34, 45
Alsatia, 113, 114
Alwington manors, 15, 17
Anne of Denmark, 30, 80, 131
Anti-Catholic action, 52, 54, 55
Army Supply, 63
Ashton, Captain, 97, 98, 99
Ashton, Sir Henry, 105
Ashurst, Sir William, 112, 159, 214
Athlone, 80, 114
Athlone, Earl of, 127, 130, 131
Atkins, Sir Robert, 68, 187
Austin, Colonel, 234
Axe, Mr., 121
Aylesbury, Lord, 224, 252
Aylmer, Admiral, 173
Ayres, Mr. Justice, 173
Baden, Lewis, Prince of, 166, 169, 170, 239
Bagford, John, 61
Baker, Captain, 135
Ball, Sir Peter, 231
Bampfeild, Colonel, 81
Bampfeild, Mr., 171
Banbury, Lord, 248, 249
Banks, 229, 230, 232, 233, 236
Barcelona, 264
Barclay, Sir George, 224, 231
Barker, Sir William, 22, 29
Barnardeston, family of, 44
Barnwell, Mr., 263
Bartholomew Fair, 84, 118
Barton, Charles, 111
Bartue, Sir Peregrine, 203
Bates, Dr., 128
Bath, Earl of, 103, 170, 233, 245, 258, 259, 261
Bavaria, Duke of, 92, 127, 239
Baxter, Richard, 126
Beachey Head, battle of, 77
Beare, Mr., 215, 261
Bedford, Duke of, 204
Bedford, Earl of, 166
Beef, prices of, 34
Beer, 89

Bellasis, Lord, 258
Bellows, William, 17
Bennett, Mr., 174, 251
Bentinck, William, *see* Portland, Earl of
Berkeley, John, Earl of, 132, 133, 182, 207, 209
Bertie, James, *see* Abingdon, Earl of
Berwick, Duke of, 28, 88, 221
Bethell, Slingsby, 67, 251
Beveridge, Dr., 109
Billop, Captain, 97, 134
Bird, Mr., 116, 117, 120, 121
Bishops' Petition (1688), 33; *see also* Seven Bishops
Blackmore, Major, 102
Blaine, Sir –, 60
Blake, Mr., 190
Blincoe, Serjeant, 204
Blunt, Sir Thomas, 125
Bolton, Mr., 183
Bolton, Duke of, 129
Bombing experiments, 42
Bonithan, Mr., 137
Books and book-sales, notes on, 23, 25, 26, 27, 32, 33, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 49, 63, 67, 69, 83, 111, 146, 157, 174, 190, 204, 206, 207, 214, 218, 220, 222, 226, 237, 251, 254
Bootle, Alderman, 153
Borlase, Mr., 266
Boufflers, L. F., Duc de, 211, 264
Bourne, Captain, 76
Bowyer, Sir Edmond, 219
Boyle, Hon. Robert, 128
Brabant, Mr., 106
Braunds, family of, 15
Brent, Mr., 58
Brett, Egerton, 119, 120, 121, 132
Brew-house, 62
Bridgman, Mr., 234
Brooks, Mr., 260, 265
Brotherton, Mr., 192
Brown, Captain, 173
Brudnall, Lord, 137
Buck, Mr., 119
Buckingham, Mr., 212
Buckingham, Sir Owen, 241
Bucknall, 253
Bucks Mills, 15
Buller, Mr., 111
Bungay, Suffolk, 59
Burgess, non-conformist, 41
Burgess, Windham, 66
Burnet, Gilbert, 55, 69, 82, 148, 189
Burton, Mr., 56, 62
Bury, Arthur, 83
Bury, Sir John, 38, 90
Butler, James, *see* Ormonde, Duke of

Butler, Sir Nicholas, 58, 67
Byerly, Mr., 203, 204

Candles, 210, 211
Capel, Arthur, *see* Essex, Earl of
Capuchins in London, 24
Carmagnolle, 122
Carmarthen, Marquess of, 209, 210
Cary, Mr., 180, 206
Cary, Sir John, 152
Cash, Lt.-Col., 224
Castlemaine, Earl of, 81, 115, 222
Catherine of Braganza, 34, 82
Catinat, Nicholas, 77, 83
Cavendish, Henry, *see* Newcastle, Duke of
Cavendish, William, *see* Devonshire, Duke of
Chambers, Mr., 232
Chappell, Sir John, 47
Charnock, Richard, 223, 224, 226
Child, Sir Francis, 73
Chiswell, Mr., 49, 174
Churchill, John, *see* Marlborough, Duke of
Clancarty, Lord, 188
Clare, Earl of, 124
Clark, Captain, 197
Clayton, SirRobert, 101, 214
Clench, Dr., 128, 135, 142
Clergis, Sir Thomas, 213
Clerk, Mr., 186
Clerk, Sir William, 240
Clinton, Edward Fiennes, *see* Lincoln, Earl of
Clously, Mr., 42
Coal, 104, 255
Coffin, Ernest, 17
Coffin, Admiral Sir Isaac, 17
Coffin, General John, 17
Coffin, Richard (1), 12, 13, 14, 16
Coffin, Richard (2), 12
Coffin, Tristran, 16
Coffin, Sir William, 16
Coffin, family of, 14, 184, 228; *see also* Pine-Coffin
Coin Act, the, 219
Coin clipping, 34, 89, 161, 192, 193, 205, 206, 210, 211, 212, 219, 239, 241, 243, 247, 256
Coinage, 78, 201
Colliers, 237
Colt, Sir Henry D., 219
Constantinople, 30
Cooke, Peter, 230, 231, 232, 240, 243, 264
Cooke, Sir Thomas, 141, 180, 198, 200, 201, 214
Cornish, Henry, 42
Cotton, Sir John, 148
Cotton, Sir Robert, 101, 149

Courtitot, *manoir* of, 14
Cradock, Zachary, 81, 214
Cragg, —, 197
Cranborne, 229
Craven, Lord, 253, 256
Crimes and punishments, 28, 30, 40, 43, 75, 76, 84, 85, 94, 95, 98, 119, 120, 128, 129, 160, 161, 165, 178, 179, 197, 206, 208, 223, 224, 241, 246, 255
Cromwell, Oliver, the younger, 63
Crooke, Colonel, 171
Crosby, —, 180
Cross, an attorney, 91, 83
Crowne, or Crone, 71, 74, 75, 76, 118, 125, 126
Cursitors' Office, 135
Cutler, Sir John, 183
Cutts, Lord, 130, 143, 160, 258

Dalrymple, Sir John, *see* Sair, Lord
Danby, Earl of, 91, 99, 100
Daniell, Sir Peter, 149
Dartmouth, Lord, 115, 118, 123
Dashwood, Alderman, 121, 126
Davis, William, 89, 94
Day, Sir Thomas, 253
Deagle, Mr., 183
Declaration of Indulgence, 36, 37
Dekins, Mr., 253
Delamere, Lord, 57
de la Vall, Admiral, 106
Demoniacal possession, 101
De Vere, Aubry, *see* Oxford, Earl of
Devonshire, William Cavendish, Duke of, 74, 203
Diving-bell, 110
Dixmude, 208
Dodsworth, —, 72
Dolben, Sir W., 168
Dorrell, Mr., 242
Dover, Baron, 54
Drews, Sir Sym, 23
Drummond, James, *see* Perth, Earl of
Duels, notable, 22, 31, 34, 90, 91, 132, 134, 138, 184, 206, 208, 226, 227, 252
Duncombe, Mr., 236
Dunkirk, 145, 147
Dutch invasion, feared, 46
Dwarfs, 24

Earthquakes, 44, 88, 90, 144, 146, 147, 151, 159, 241
East India Company, 172, 202, 249
Edwin, Sir Humfry, 47

Ellis, John, 13
Ellyot, Captain, 98, 107
Elston, Mr., 131
Ely, Bishop of, 99, 101
Essex, Arthur Capel, Earl of, 58
Exeter, Earl of, 215
Exeter Fair, 50

Falkland, Lord, 170, 178
Fane, Mr., 227
Feilding, Mr., 219
Fenn, Mr., 65
Fenwick, Sir John, 138, 225, 232, 233, 234, 239, 240, 242, 243, 244, 245, 247, 248, 250
Ferguson, Robert, 74, 75, 137, 223, 224, 240
Firebrasse, Sir B., 201, 202
Fires, 63, 102, 105, 124, 129, 130, 147, 167, 170, 172, 187, 202, 216, 257, 260
Fitzpatrick, Colonel, 103
Flanders, 83, 94
Fleet, Mr., 47, 149, 214
Floods, 22
Floyer, Mr., 236
Foaly, Mr., 197
Fogs in London, 26
Ford, Thomas, 93
Forrester, Sir –, 138
Fowler, Edward, 107
Fowler, Sir Thomas, 126, 152
Fox, Sir Stephen, 236
Francklyn, T. (?), 101
Frederick Augustus, of Poland, 263
Freind, Sir John, 224, 225, 226
Freke, William, 177, 185
French invasion, feared, 51, 79, 136, 137, 156
Fuller, William, 126, 129, 131, 152, 234

Gadbury, John, 75, 76
Gale, Dr., 111
Gerard, Charles, *see* Macclesfield, Earl of
Germane the Flanderkin, 153
Gerrard, Sir Gilbert, 215
Ginkel, Godart van, *see* Athlone, Earl of
Gipps, Lady, 187
Gipps, Sir Richard, 222
Glass, John, 65
Gloucester, Duke of, 216
Godfrys, Colonel, 125
Godolphin, Henry, 214
Godolphin, Sidney, Lord, 50, 91, 203
Godolphin, Sir William, 146
Golden Farmer, the, 89
Goodman, Cardonnell, 222, 228
Gordon, George, 57

Gordon, John, *see* Sutherland, Earl of.
Gough, Mr., 133, 161, 228, 229
Gould, Captain, 92
Graham, John, of Claverhouse, 60
Graham, Colonel, 56, 62, 99, 100
Grandval, Monsieur, 145
Grandville, 207
Greenville, Mr., 164
Gregory, Sir William, 232
Grey, Forde, *see* Tankerville, Earl of
Griffin, Lord, 63
Griffith, Lord, 64
Grosswardein, 120, 139
Grove, Dr., 107
Guavis, Mr., 42
Guinea, taken by the French, 175
Guy, Henry, 73, 111, 180, 195, 196, 202
Gwyn, Sir Richard, 135, 160

Hackney, powder explosion at, 70
Haddock, Sir Richard, 65, 76
Hales, Sir Edward, 55, 56
Halifax, Lord, 50, 58, 68
Hall, John, 193, 220
Hampden, 68, 113, 164, 246, 247
Hampton Court, 66
Harcliffe, Mr., 81
Hart, Richard, 193, 227
Hastings, Captain, 139
Hatfell, Serjeant, 240
Hawtree, Mr., 216
Heidelberg, 161, 162
Heirn, Mr., 65
Hele, Mr., 172
Herbert, Arthur, *see* Torrington, Earl of
Herbert, Sir Edward, 56, 78
Herbert, William, *see* Montgomery, Viscount
Higgins, Sir Thomas, 125
Highwaymen, 84, 89, 128, 152, 157, 158, 164, 186, 187, 188, 197
Hill, Captain, 152, 156
Hinton, Edward, 187
Hobart, Sir Henry, 108
Hobbs, Admiral, 212
Hodder, Mr., 172
Hollis, Lord, 168, 189
Holloway, Sir Richard, 37
Holt, Sir John, 129, 156, 241
Honeywood, Mr., 168
Hooper, Mr., 131
Hops, 46, 62, 63, 85, 122, 144, 147, 181, 182, 212, 238, 239

Horneck, Antony, 101, 226
Hounslow Heath, 42
How, John Grubham, 133
Howard of Effingham, Lord, 198
Howard, Sir Bernard, 78
Hubland, Sir John, 149, 213
Hudson's Bay, 214
Huguenots, 21, 28, 56
Hungerford, Mr., 198
Huntington, Lord, 137, 141, 152
Hutchins, Sir George, 74, 208
Hyde, Laurence, *see* Rochester, Earl of
Hynton, Mr., 196

Influenza, 33
Ireland, discontent in, 104
Irish soldiers, 46, 48, 52
Ironside, Gilbert, 106
Italian sermons, 130
Ivy, Lady, 38

Jamaica, 32, 144
James II, 45, 52, 54, 67, 78
Jefferys, Alderman, 49
Jefferys, George, Baron, 64
Jenner, Sir Thomas, 34, 56, 62
Jermyn, Henry, *see* Dover, Baron
Jesuits, 53
Jews, taxed, 64
Johnson, Rev. Samuel, 161, 218, 236
Johnstone, Sir John, 92, 95, 96

Keating, —, 123
Keck, Sir Antony, 74
Keightly, Lady F., 128
Keleby, Mr., 69
Kelsey, Tom, 75
Kensy, Sir Thomas, 248
Kent, Sir Jonathan, 115
Keys, Thomas, 223, 224, 226
Killegrew, Captain, 75, 196
Killiecrankie, battle of, 60
Kimpthorne, Captain, 151
King, Edward, 223, 224, 226
Kingston, Lady, 266
Kinsale, 88, 89
Kirke, Percy, 43, 59
Knight, Sir John, 120, 227
Knighthoods conferred by William III, 63
Knightly, Mr., 231, 232

La Hogue, battle of, 138
Lake, Dr. John, 223
Lamplugh, Dr. Thomas, 108
Lane, Mr., 141
Lansdons, Lord, 99

Lapthorne, Richard, 11, 12, 13, 15
Law, John, financier, 174, 180, 192
Lawes, Mr., 131
Lawton, Mr., 90
Leeds, Duke of, 202
Leicester Fields, 27
Leigh, Sir Thomas, 101
Lencare, —, 193
Lennox, Charles, *see* Richmond, Duke of
Leopold I, Emperor, 55, 88
Lester, Mr., 248, 249
Lestrange, Sir Roger, 42, 102, 224
Lettice, Mrs., 163
Levestons, Colonel, 175
Levit, Mr., 112, 123
Lewis, Sir Symon, 153
Lidcots, Giles, 241
Limerick, 83, 84, 119, 121, 122, 130
Lincoln, Edward Fiennes, Earl of, 132, 153
Lister, T., 202
Litlebury, Mr., 42, 43, 50, 146, 174, 190, 218
Littleton, Sir Thomas, 229
Lloyd, Dr. William, 57, 136
Londonderry, 59, 60
Louis XIV, 29, 30, 35, 84, 238
Lovell, Serjeant, 140
Lower, Dr., 97
Lowther, Sir John, 106, 132
Lowyck, Robert, 229
Lucas, Lord, 52, 138
Lucy, Alderman, 47
Ludlow, Colonel, 64, 188
Lumley, Lord, 56
Luxemburg, 191

Macclesfield, Lord, 81, 167, 261
Mackay, Andrew, 108, 143
Mackenzie, George, 55
Maggot, Sir George, 218
Mahomet IV, 22
Manaton, Mr., 223, 240
Manners, Marjorie, 16
Marlborough, John, Duke of, 129, 137, 141, 152
Marlborough, Sarah, Duchess of, 131
Marr, Earl of, 57
Marsham, Sir —, 172
Mart, —, 251, 252, 254
Martin, Mr., 161, 162
Mary II, Queen, 58, 73, 77, 80, 163, 191
Mary of Modena, 23, 51, 55, 133
Maudit, Mr., 192
Maynard, Sir John, 73, 88, 91, 112
Mechillicot, 91
Mereton, Mr., 226

Middle Temple, trouble in, 181
Middleton, Lord, 138
Midleton, Mr., 161, 162
Militia, 80
Miracle, described, 165
Mohon, Lord, 156, 157, 158
Money, 230; *see also* Coin clipping
Monmouth, Earl of, 229
Monpersons, Sir Thomas, 69
Mons, siege of, 103, 104, 105
Montague, Lord, 201, 233, 235, 242, 245
Montgomery, Lord, 225
Moore, Dr. John, 107
Mordaunt, Charles, *see* Monmouth, Earl of
Mordaunt, Henry, *see* Peterborough, Earl of
Mordaunt, Lady Mary, 43
Morris, Richard, 187
Mountgomery, Sir John, 168
Mulgrave, Earl of, 200
Murders, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 69, 97, 117, 119, 128, 173, 182, 193, 217, 263

Naked Gospel, 83
Namur, siege of, 140, 141, 143, 145, 207, 208, 209
Narborough, Lady, 91
Narborough, Sir John, 26, 33
National defence, 46, 47
Navy supplies, 63, 65
Navy, state of, in 1690, 80
Neale, Thomas, 38
New Portledge, Rhodesia, 16
Newcastle, Duke of, 117
Newcastle, naval action near, 116
Newmarket, 214
Norfolk, Duke of, 153
Normandy, trouble reported in, 133
Northmore, Thomas, 13, 78, 79
Norton, Colonel, 110
Norwich, riots in, 56
Noseworthy, Mr., 160
Nottingham, Earl of, 50, 104

Oates, Titus, 218
Ogden, Mr., 69
Ogleby, Lady, 67
Okehampton, 13
Okes, Mr., 55
Onslow, Sir Richard, 203
Opie, Richard, 127
Orford, Earl of, 113, 139, 156, 160, 177, 195, 210, 215, 221, 222
Ormonde, Duke of, 41, 258

Osanston, Lord, 200
Osborne, Peregrine, *see* Carmarthen, Marquess of
Osborne, Sir Thomas, *see* Danby, Lord
Ostend, 145
Ourlabeer, Mr., 249
Oxford, Earl of, 133

Paget, William, Lord, 186
Palmer, Mr., 78, 79
Palmer, Roger, *see* Castlemaine, Earl of
Panceford, Mr., 132, 195, 196, 202
Papillion, Mr., 160, 214
Parker, Dr. Samuel, 22
Parker, Colonel, 180
Parliament, 25, 26, 31, 45, 58, 59
Parsons, Sir John, 65, 112
Partridge, Mr., 75
Patrick, Dr., 106
Paulet, Charles, *see* Bolton, Duke of, 129
Pellam, Mr., 132
Penn, William, 81, 99
Penny Post, 62
Periwigs, 162
Perkins, Sir William, 223, 224, 225, 226
Perth, Earl of, 54
Peterborough, Earl of, 55, 58, 62, 262
Petit, Mr., 148
Phipps, Mr., 262, 264
Pignorolle, 145
Pilkington, Sir Thomas, 63, 73, 126
Pine-Coffin, Mrs., 17
Pine-Coffin, Claude, 40
Pine-Coffin, Trenchard, 40
Pine-Coffin, Tristram, 16
Pine-Coffin, family of, 13; *see also* Coffin
Pitts, Mr., 26, 28
Plague, 117
Pollexfen, Sir Henry, 111
Pomfret, Mr., 254
Pontoons, 109, 110
Pope, Sir Thomas, 263
Porter, Sir Charles, 232, 247
Porter, George, 222, 229
Portland, Lord, 139, 236, 237
Portledge, 15
Portman, Sir William, 69
Poultny, Sir William, 120
Powell, Sir John, 37, 120, 240
Power, Richard, *see* Tyrone, Earl of
Powle, Henry, 54, 58, 61, 153
Powys, Lady, 111
Prendergrast (?), Sir John, 222, 229
Press gang, 45, 103

Preston, Lord, 64, 96, 97, 98, 99, 107, 108, 110, 118, 123, 124, 126
Price, Mr., 92
Price, Elizabeth, 248
Prichard, Alderman, 73
Pride, Mr., 194, 201
Prideaux, Ann, 13
Prideaux, Edmund, 13
Prideaux, Humphry, 13
Prince, John, 14
Pritchard, Sir William, 47
Prophecy, curious, 175, 176
Pullein, Mrs., 263

Quick, Mr., 263

Radnor, Lord, 227
Rawlinson, Sir William, 74
Raymond, Sir Jonathan, 73, 121, 149, 241
Reynell, Sir Richard, 205
Rhoderick, Dr., 82
Rich, Sir Peter, 47, 73, 76, 112, 126
Richmond, Duke of, 132
Ridgely, Dr., 166
Riffington, Captain, 184
Riots, 56, 113
Robinson, Captain, 231
Robinson, Sir Leonard, 112, 141, 240
Rochester, Earl of, 89, 139
Roman Catholic plots, 72
Rooke, Admiral Sir George, 143, 221, 227, 228, 230
Rookwood, Sir T., 229
Roope, Captain, 102
Rotherham, Sir John, 41
Rous, Mr., 31
Row, Mr., 137
Rowe, Dorothy, 13
Rowe, John, 13
Royal Sovereign, the, 71, 220
Runagadors, 205
Russell, Admiral Edward, *see* Orford, Earl of
Russell, Wriothesley, *see* Bedford, Duke of
Ruytler, Mr., 138

St. Michael's, Cornhill, 48
St. Ruth, General, 110, 116
Sair, Lord, 55
Salisbury, Earl of, 55, 56, 58, 62, 137, 187
Salisbury, Captain, 145
Sarsfield, Colonel, 50, 82, 102, 104, 121
Savile, Sir George, *see* Halifax, Marquess of
Savory, Mr., 213
Savoy, Duke of, 75, 77, 83, 122, 145, 148, 234, 235
Sawyer, Sir Edmund, 21
Say-Hoe, 106
Scarborough, Lord, 164
Scarsdale, Lord, 137

Schomberg, Frederick Herman, 56
Sedition, 78, 125
Seven Bishops, the, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 46, 48
Seymour, Sir Edward, 127, 203, 222, 223
Seymour, Henry, 69
Shadwell, Thomas, 153
Shales, Commissary, 76
Sharp, Dr., 108
Sheffield, John, *see* Mulgrave, Earl of
Sherlock, William, 80, 90, 106, 110, 218
Shorter, Sir John, 45
Shovell, Sir Cloudesley, 56, 85, 91, 102, 123, 124, 179, 225, 246
Shrewsbury, Earl, 141, 171
Sicily, 159
Sidney, Henry, Lord, 96, 134, 139, 160
Skelton, Bevil, 52
Sligo, 64
Smallpox, 28, 30, 225, 226
Snatt, William, 234
Snowfall, great, 64
Sobieski, John, 233
Somers, John, Baron, 132, 160, 260
Southwark, 75, 88
Stamp, Sir Thomas, 121, 159
Stanford, Earl of, 258
Stanley, Bishop, 190
Steinkirk, battle of, 143
Stirbitch (Stourbridge?) fair, 62, 85, 122, 212, 239
Storms, 115, 143, 173, 192
Strafford, Countess of, 168
Strickland, Sir Roger, 114
Stroude, R., 249
Stuart, James Francis Edward, 36, 39
Sturt, Alderman, 65
Suicides, 164, 194, 255, 265
Sunderland, 107, 238
Sutherland, Earl of, 55

Talbot, Charles, *see* Shrewsbury, Earl of
Talbot, Richard, *see* Tyrconnel, Earl of
Talmarsh (?), *see* Tollemache (?)
Tankerville, Earl of, 203, 265
Tax on paper, 180
Temple, Martha Jane, 132
Temple, Sir William, 23
Tennison, Dr., 109, 190
Thames, frozen, 130
Thornecroft, —, 135
Thorogood, Alderman, 173
Throgmorton, Mr., 180
Tilliar, Monsieur, 44, 45
Tillotson, Dr. John, 23, 106, 110, 189

Titus, Silius, 38, 110
Tollemache, General, 130, 131, 137, 160, 179
Tomson, John, Lord, 229
Tooley, —, 199
Torrington, Earl of, 39, 66, 78, 80, 91, 93, 141
Treby, Sir George, 111, 117, 132, 136, 142, 143
Tremayne, Serjeant, 140
Trenchard, Sir John, 40, 159, 188, 189, 192, 198, 203
Trevor, Sir John, 38, 68, 73, 142, 153, 160, 189, 197, 201, 241
Trials by Jury, 59
Trumball, Sir William, 22, 203, 238
Tucker, Mr., 193
Turner, Sir E., 164
Turner, Sir William, 159
Turnips, exceptional, 214
Tyrconnel, Earl of, 103, 104, 126
Tyrone, Earl of, 90

Upton, Mr., 183

Van Tromp, Admiral, 108
Vane, Christopher, 38
Vaudemont, Prince, 238
Vaughan, Captain, 243
Ventris, Judge, 108, 120
Victor Amadeus II, *see* Savoy, Duke of
Villeroy, Duc de, 238
Vossius, Isaac, 82
Vyner, Sir Robert, 45

Wake, Dr., 121, 175
Walcourt, 62
Waldeck, Prince G. F. de, 61, 77
Walker, Obadiah, 56
Wallis, Dr., 174, 175
Wallop, Richard, 221
Waltham Abbey, explosion at, 72
War, effects of, 185
Ward, Sir Edward, 160, 187, 189
Ward, Sir Patrick, 234
Warrington, Earl of, 167
Watts, Mr., 63
Waugh, Mr., 233
Weather, exceptional, 26, 103, 143
Weavers, 249
Wem, Lord, 90
Whales, 42, 103
Wharton, Goodwin, 182
Wharton, Philip, Baron, 182
Wharton, William, 22
Wharton, Madam, 92
White, Dr., 250
Whitley, Colonel, 74
Whitney, James, 157

Whitron, Mr., 65
Widdrington, Lord, 116
Wilcox, Rev. —, 132
Wildman, Major, 67, 101
William III, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57, 59, 60, 65, 70, 72, 75, 77, 96, 97, 106, 107, 112, 123, 131, 132, 134, 142, 150, 171, 172, 177, 189, 223, 229
Williams, Dr., 240
Williamson, Sir Joseph, 244, 255, 256, 258
Wills, Mr., 212
Wilson, Beau, 173, 174
Wiltshire, Lord, 56
Wintour, Captain, 239, 254
Wittenburgh, Duke of, 223
Wood, Captain, 180
Wood, Dr., 136
Woodruffe, Dr., 130
Wooltenhohn, Sir John, 215
Wright, Sir Robert, 37
Wynter, Captain, 161

Young, Mr., 158, 206
Young, Captain, 106
Ypres, 145

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